

# ARMY NAVY

GAZETTE OF THE  
REGULAR

## JOURNAL.

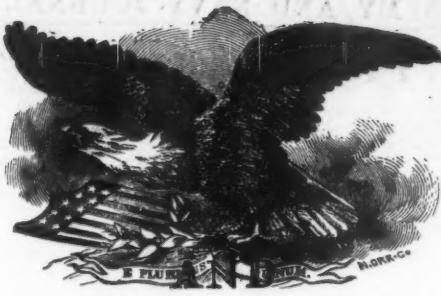
# NAVY

AND VOLUNTEER  
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VOLUME XIV.—NUMBER 25.  
WHOLE NUMBER 701.

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Constitution.	3rd	6	1335 Comdr. H. A. Adams, Jr...	Annapolis, Naval Academy.	Powhatan, paddle.	2nd	12 2128	Capt. John H. Russell...	Norfolk.
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Gettysburg, p.	4th	6	518 Lt.-Comdr. H. H. Gorringe...	N. A. Sta., Port Royal.	St. Louis.	3rd	16 431	Comdr. Byron Wilson...	Receiving Ship, League Island, Pa.
Hartford, s.	2nd	18	2000 Capt. Stephen B. Luce...	Receiving Ship, Mare Island, Cal.	St. Mary.	3rd	16 766	Comdr. Robt. L. Phythian...	School Ship, New York.
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Lackawanna, s.	2nd	1026	Captain James A. Greer...	N. A. Sta., Port Royal.	Wabash, s.	1st	45 3000	Capt. Ralph Chandler...	Receiving-ship, Boston.
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Manopac, s.	4th	2	550 Lieut. Wm. W. Rhoades...	European Station, Leghorn.	Wyandotte, s.	4th	2 550	Lieut. T. C. Terrell...	Norfolk.
Manhattan, s.	4th	2	550 Lieut. J. A. Cheseau...	Spec. Serv., Erie.	Wyoming, s.	3rd	8 728	Comdr. Geo. W. Haywood...	Washington.
Marion, s.	3rd	8	910 Comdr. R. F. Bradford...	New York.	Yantic, s.	3rd	8 410	Comdr. Wm. Whitehead...	En route home.
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Minnesota, s.	1st	493000	Captain A. W. Johnson...	Baltimore, Training-ship.					
Monongahela.	2nd	11	960 Comdr. S. Dana Greene...	Norfolk.					
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4. The General and Special Orders and Circulars issued by the War and Navy Departments and through the Headquarters of the Army. Also the General Court-martial Orders, and orders from the different Departments of the Government affecting the Army and Navy.

5. Official lists of Army and Navy nominations and confirmations by the President and the U. S. Senate.

6. Descriptions of inventions and improvements relating to the art of war, and of experiments and discoveries illustrative of Military and Naval science in this country and abroad; an also of matters relating to military hygiene, surgery and the sanitary condition of the Army and Navy.

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## THE ARMY.

ULYSSES S. GRANT, President and Commander-in-Chief.

J. Donald Cameron, Secretary of War.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.  
Colonel Randolph B. Marcy, Inspector-General.  
Brig.-Gen. Wm. M. K. Dunn, Judge-Advocate-General.  
Colonel Albert J. Myer, Chief Signal Officer.  
Brig.-Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster-General.  
Brigadier-General R. Macfie, Commissary General of Subsistence.  
Brigadier-General Jos. K. Barnes, Surgeon-General.  
Brigadier-General Benj. Alvord, Paymaster-General.  
Brigadier-General And. A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers.  
Brigadier-General Stephen V. Benét, Chief of Ordnance.

W. T. Sherman, General of the Army of the United States.  
Washington, D. C. Colonel W. D. Whipple, Asst. Adjt-General.

### MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieutenant-General P. H. Sheridan: Headquarters, Chicago, Ill.  
Colonel Richard C. Drum, A. A.-G.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.—Brigadier-General Alfred H. Terry: Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.  
Major George D. Ruggles, A. A.-G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.—Brigadier-General John Pope: Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kas.  
Major E. R. Platt, A. A.-G.

District of New Mexico.—Colonel Edward Hatch, 9th Cavalry: Headquarters, Santa Fe, N. M.  
First Lieutenant John S. Loud, 9th Cavalry, Act. A. A.-G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATE.—Brigadier-General Geo. Crook: Headquarters, Omaha, Neb.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Williams, A. A.-G.

District of the Black Hills.—Col. Randolph S. Mackenzie, 4th Cavalry: Headquarters Red Cloud Agency, D. P.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.—Brigadier-General C. C. Augur: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.

Major Oliver D. Greene, A. A.-G.

District of Baton Rouge.—Lieut.-Col. John R. Brooke, 3d Infantry, Commanding: Headquarters, Baton Rouge Barracks, La.  
Second Lieutenant Fayette W. Roe, 3d Infantry, Act. A. A.-G.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.—Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord: Headquarters, San Antonio, Texas.  
Major Jos. H. Taylor, A. A.-G.

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Colonel Jas. B. Fry, A. A.-G.

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Lieutenant-Colonel John C. Kelton, A. A.-G.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.—Major-General Irvin McDowell: Headquarters, San Francisco, Cal.

Major Samuel Brock, A. A.-G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.—Brevet Major-General O. O. Howard: Headquarters, Portland, Oregon.

Major Henry C. Wood, A. A.-G.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.—Brevet Major-General August V. Kautz: Headquarters, Prescott.

Major James P. Martin A. A.-G.

## ABSTRACT OF IMPORTANT ORDERS.

S. O. 9, DEPT. SOUTH, Jan. 15, 1877.

The public property at the military post of Nashville, Tenn., pertaining to the Quartermaster's, Commissary, and Medical Departments will be disposed of as may be directed by the Chiefs of those Departments respectively.

G. O. 26, DEPT. DAKOTA, Dec. 30, 1876.

Information has been received from the Chief of Ordnance that the "prairie belt" will be issued by that department, in lieu of the cartridge box, upon proper requisitions approved by the Department Commander.

Company commanders desiring to obtain these belts will forward requisitions through the usual channels.

No Special Orders were issued from the Adjutant-General's Office on Monday, Jan. 23, 1877.

### OFFICIAL

List of Army Nominations and Confirmations since Dec. 4, 1876 (Adjutant-General's Office, Jan. 17, 1877):

### CONFIRMED.

Promotions.—Capt. A. A. Woodhull, Asst. Surgeon, to be surgeon (major); Capt. J. S. Billings, Asst. Surgeon, to be surgeon (major); 2d Lieut. J. G. Kyle, 1st Cavalry, to be 1st lieutenant; 1st Lieut. R. Norwood, 3d Cavalry, to be captain; 1st Lieut. J. Lawson, 3d Cavalry, to be captain; 2d Lieut. C. Morton, 3d Cavalry, to be 1st lieutenant; 2d Lieut. A. E. Wood, 4th Cavalry, to be 1st lieutenant; 2d Lieut. F. Michler, 5th Cavalry, to be 1st lieutenant; 1st Lieut. E. C. Hentig, 6th Cavalry, to be captain; 2d Lieut. A. H. H. Robinson, Jr., 7th Cavalry, to be 1st lieutenant; 1st Lieut. J. Lafferty, 8th Cavalry, to be captain; 2d Lieut. E. A. Goodwin, 8th Cavalry, to be 1st lieutenant; 1st Lieut. T. Ward, 1st Artillery, to be captain; 2d Lieut. H. L. Harris, 1st Artillery, to be 1st lieutenant; 2d Lieut. A. T. Abbott, 3d Artillery, to be 1st lieutenant; Capt. H. W. Clouston, 1st Artillery, to be major 5th Artillery; 1st Lieut. W. B. Beck, 5th Artillery, to be captain; 2d Lieut. A. L. Morton, 5th Artillery, to be 1st lieutenant; 2d Lieut. H. B. Carson, 2d Infantry, to be 1st lieutenant; Capt. H. G. Thomas, 20th Infantry, to be major 4th Infantry; 1st Lieut. D. M. Lee, 6th Infantry, to be captain; 2d Lieut. D. L. Craft, 6th Infantry, to be 1st lieutenant; 2d Lieut. F. Stiles, 10th Infantry, to be 1st lieutenant; 2d Lieut. G. Rublen, 17th Infantry, to be 1st lieutenant; 1st Lieut. R. M. Taylor, 20th Infantry, to be captain; 2d Lieut. H. Cushman, 20th Infantry, to be 1st lieutenant; Major A. Chambers, 4th Infantry, to be lieutenant-colonel 21st Infantry; 2d Lieut. H. D. W. Moore, 21st Infantry, to be 1st lieutenant; 1st Lieut. E. S. Godfrey, 7th Cavalry, to be captain; 2d Lieut. G. S. Wilson, 12th Infantry, to be 1st lieutenant.

Appointments.—E. P. Brewer, of Ohio, to be 2d Lieutenant 7th

Cavalry; J. W. Biddle, of Penn., to be 2d Lieutenant 7th Cavalry; B. Eldridge, of Mass., to be 2d Lieutenant 10th Infantry; G. Howard, from at large, to be 2d Lieutenant 12th Infantry; W. A. Kimball, of Utah, to be 2d Lieutenant 14th Infantry; Sergt. W. I. Cook, Co. D, 15th Infantry, to be 2d Lieutenant 17th Infantry; T. H. Eckerson, from at large, late 2d Lieut. 6th Infantry, to be 2d Lieutenant 19th Infantry; D. Ryan, of New York, late 1st Sergeant Co. I, 6th Cavalry, to be 2d Lieutenant 23d Infantry; S. A. Dyer, of the Dist. of Columbia, to be 2d Lieutenant 23d Infantry; Major G. E. Cooper, Surgeon, to be assistant medical purveyor (lieutenant-colonel); W. C. Muhlenberg, of Penn., to be 2d Lieutenant 2d Infantry; F. D. Sharp, of the Dist. of Columbia, to be 2d Lieutenant 20th Infantry; J. J. Crittenden, of Kentucky, to be 2d Lieutenant 22d Infantry; R. C. Van Vliet, of New Jersey, to be 2d Lieutenant 10th Infantry; C. Byrne, from at large, to be 2d Lieutenant 6th Infantry; C. B. Thompson, of Penn., to be 2d Lieutenant 5th Infantry; S. Q. Robinson, of Mass., to be assistant surgeon (1st lieutenant); W. B. Davis, of Virginia, to be assistant surgeon (1st lieutenant).

Re-appointment.—J. E. Macklin, late 2d Lieut. 22d Infantry, to be 2d Lieutenant 11th Infantry.

Transfers.—2d Lieut. H. G. Sickel, Jr., from the 14th Infantry to the 7th Cavalry; 2d Lieut. H. J. Slocum, from the 25th Infantry to the 7th Cavalry; 2d Lieut. C. H. Lester, from the 24th Infantry to the 2d Artillery.

## STAFF CORPS AND DEPARTMENTS.

### CHANGES OF STATIONS.

A. A. Surg. T. B. Davis, to duty at Fort Abercrombie, to relieve A. A. Surg. G. W. Hatch, who has declined to accept terms of new contract offered to him to date from Jan. 1, 1877 (S. O. 5, D. A.)

A. A. Surg. A. Chenoweth, M. D., report to C. O. Camp at Red Canon, W. T., for duty (S. O. 6, D. P.)

The following changes in the stations of medical officers are made: A. Surg. F. C. Ainsworth, to duty as post surgeon at Camp Grant, A. T., relieving A. Surg. Rossen; A. Surg. R. L. Rossen will proceed to Camp Thomas, A. T., and relieve A. A. Surg. O. J. Eddy, of his duties as post surgeon at that post; A. A. Surg. O. J. Eddy will proceed to Camp Grant, A. T., and report to C. O. for duty (S. O. 1, D. A.)

The following assignment of Medical officers to stations, is hereby announced: A. Surg. J. R. Gibson, M. D., to Fort McPherson, Neb.; A. Surg. M. W. Wood, M. D., to Camp Robinson, Neb.; A. A. Surg. C. V. Petrys, M. D., to Fort D. A. Russell, W. T.; A. A. Surg. A. L. La Garde, M. D., to Camp Robinson, Neb. (S. O. 5, D. P.)

A. A. Surg. W. T. Owsley will at once proceed to Camp Robinson, Neb., for duty (S. O. 8, D. P.)

### DETACHED SERVICE.

Major M. P. Small, C. S., will proceed to Fort Leavenworth, Kas., on business connected with public service (S. O. 5, M. D. M.)

Capt. F. H. Phipps, Ord. Dept., Chief Ord. Officer of Department, will proceed to Baton Rouge, La., on public business (S. O. 8, D. G.)

Major R. N. Batchelder, Q. M., Chief Q. M., will repair to San Francisco for temporary duty at Division Hdqrs (S. O. 168, D. C.)

Surg. J. C. G. Happerset, M. D., member G. C.-M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H., Jan. 19 (S. O. 12, M. D. A.)

Surg. J. Campbell, M. D., member G. C. M. Fort Adams, R. I., Jan. 22 (S. O. 13, M. D. A.)

A. Surg. C. Styer, M. D., member G. C.-M., Fort Porter, N. Y., Jan. 23 (S. O. 13, M. D. A.)

A. Surgs. M. K. Taylor, M. D., C. B. Byrne, M. D., members G. C. M. San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 19 (S. O. 9, D. T.)

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Ten days, Major G. B. Dandy, Q. M., Buffalo, N. Y. (S. O. 11, M. D. A.)

### PAYMENT OF TROOPS.

Major R. H. Towler, P. D., will pay troops to include muster of Dec. 31, 1876, at Fort Townsend, W. T., Fort Wrangell and the post of Sitka, Alaska (S. O. 168, D. C.)

The following assignment of paymasters is made for the payment of troops to include the muster of Dec. 31, 1876: Major J. H. Eaton, Chief Paymaster, at Fort Vancouver and Vancouver Arsenal, and Forts Stevens and Canby; Major C. W. Wingard, at Fort Boise and Camp Harney; Major J. P. Canby, at Fort Klamath (S. O. 3, D. C.)

Major T. H. Stanton, P. D., Cheyenne, W. T., will proceed to Sidney, Neb., and pay troops at that post, including Pawnee Indian Scouts (S. O. 6, D. P.)

Major T. H. Stanton, P. D., will, upon completion of payment of troops at Sidney Barracks, Neb., proceed to pay the troops at those posts. Upon returning from Camp Brown to his station, Major Dewey will pay troops at Fort Bridger, W. T. (S. O. 8, D. P.)

### HOSPITAL STEWARDS.

Hosp. Stew. R. Keogh will return to Fort Bridger, W. T., for duty; Hosp. Stew. W. C. Bryan will proceed to Camp Robinson, Neb., for duty (S. O. 5, D. P.)

Hosp. Stew. W. Hamberg will proceed to Fort Monroe, Va., for temporary duty (S. O. 14, M. D. A.)

Hosp. Stew. R. Roth will report at the expiration of his furlough, to the Commanding General Dept. of the Plate for assignment to duty. Furlough for one month and fifteen days to Hosp. Stew. R. Roth (S. O. 18, W. D.)

### ANNULLED.

The following named A. A. Surgeons will forward their contracts to Medical Director Department of Columbia for annulment, to take effect Jan. 1, 1877—

to the end that a new contract, at a reduced compensation, one hundred dollars per month, may be made with them, viz.: P. Treadwell, Fort Boise, I. T.; H. K. Durrant, Fort Stevens, Ore.; F. S. Stirling, Fort Colville, W. T.; W. D. Baker, post of Sitka, Alaska; S. Hemenway, Fort Klamath, Ore. (S. O. 170, D. C.)

The contracts of the following named A. A. Surgeons are annulled, to date from Jan. 1, 1877: L. N. Clark, O. J. Eddy, S. A. Freeman, R. E. Lightburne, G. S. Oldmixon, and Jas. Reagles (S. O. 154, D. A.)

The contract of A. A. Surg. R. M. Reynolds, M. D., upon arrival of A. A. Surg. Chenoweth, at Camp at Red Canon, are confirmed (S. O. 6, D. P.)

## THE LINE.

### CHANGES OF STATIONS OF TROOPS.

Reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, Jan. 20, 1877:

Co. I, 2d Cavalry, from Fort D. A. Russell, W. T., to Fort Fred Steele, W. T.

Co. K, 2d Cavalry, from Fort Laramie, W. T., to Fort Fred Steele, W. T.

Co. H, 3d Cavalry, from Powder River Expedition to Sidney Barracks, Neb.

Co. K, 3d Cavalry, from Powder River Expedition to Cheyenne Depot, W. T.

Co. B, D, E, F, I, and M, 4th Cavalry, from Powder River Expedition to Camp Robinson, Neb.

Co. H, 5th Cavalry, from Powder River Expedition to Fort D. A. Russell, W. T.

Co. M, 2d Artillery, from Marion, S. C., to Fort Johnston, N. C.

Co. A, 2d Infantry, from Tallahassee, Fla., to Atlanta, Ga.

Co. D, 4th Infantry, from Camp Robinson, Neb., to Omaha Barracks, Neb.

Co. G, 4th Infantry, from Camp Robinson, Neb., to Fort Bridger, W. T.

Headquarters and Co. H, 9th Infantry, from Sidney Barracks, Neb., to Omaha Barracks, Neb.

Co. B, D, I, and K, 9th Infantry, from Powder River Expedition to Omaha Barracks, Neb.

Co. A, 9th Infantry, from Powder River Expedition to North Platte, Neb.

Co. F, 9th Infantry, from Fort Laramie, W. T., to Omaha Barracks, Neb.

Co. D and G, 14th Infantry, from Powder River Expedition to Camp Douglas, Utah.

Co. C, G, and I, 23d Infantry, from Powder River Expedition to Fort Leavenworth, Kas.

Headquarters 24th Infantry, from Fort Duncan, Texas, to Fort Clark, Texas.

Posts Discontinued.—Nashville, Tenn.; Fort Bliss, Tex.; Fort Quitman, Tex.

1ST CAVALRY, Colonel Cuvier Grover.—Headquarters, and E. L. H., Ft. Walla Walla, W. T.; A, Camp Bidwell, Cal.; B, Fort Klamath, Oregon; C, Camp McDermitt, Nev.; F, Fort Lapwai, I. T.; J, Camp Hallock, Nev.; K, Camp Harney, Or.; M, Fort Colville, Wash. T.; B, Presidio, Cal.; G, San Diego, Bks., Cal.

Detached Service.—Major J. Green, inspector on certain ordnance stores, camp and garrison equipage, at Camp Harney, Ore. (S. O. 169, D. C.)

1st Lieut. E. Hunter, member, G. C.-M. Alcatraz Island, Cal., Jan. 15 (S. O. 3, M. D. P.)

2d Lieut. W. H. Miller (Co. F, Fort Lapwai), will report for temporary duty with Co. L, at Fort Walla Walla (S. O. 171, D. C.)

Leave of Absence.—Capt. C. C. Carr, extended two months (S. O., Jan. 19, W. D.)

2ND CAVALRY, Colonel I. N. Palmer.—Headquarters, A, B, D, E, Fort Sanders, W. T.; I, K, Fort Fred Steele; C, Camp Stambaugh, W. T.; F, G, H, L, Fort Ellis, M. T.; M, Camp Brown, W. T.

Leave of Absence.—2d Lieut. H. D. Huntington, Fort Sanders, W. T., extended one month (S. O. 5, M. D. M.)

3RD CAVALRY, Col. J. J. Reynolds.—Headquarters, and A, B, D, E, F, G, Fort Laramie, W. T.; B, Sidney Barracks, Neb.; I, Fort Fetterman, W. T.; C, L, Camp Robinson, Neb.; M, Camp Sheridan, Neb.; K, Cheyenne, W. T.

Leave of Absence.—One month, Lieut.-Col. W. B. Royall, A. A. Insp.-Gen., Omaha, Neb. (S. O. 7, D. P.)

Relieved.—Capt. F. Van Vliet from duty as member G. C.-M. Camp Robinson, Neb., by S. O. 168, series of 1876 (S. O. 8, D. P.)

Recruits.—The Supt. Mounted Recruiting Service will cause seventy recruits to be forwarded to Cheyenne, W. T., to the 3d Cav. (S. O., Jan. 20, W. D.)

4TH CAVALRY, Col. R. S. McKenzie.—Headquarters, and B, D, E, F, H, I, M, Camp Robinson, Neb.; A, C, K, Fort Sill, I. T.; G, L, Fort Reno, I. T.

Detached Service.—Capt. W. O'Connell, member, G. C.-M. Camp Robinson, Neb., S. O. 168, series of 1876 (S. O. 8, D. P.)

Major J. K. Mizner, Capt. J. Rendlebrock, T. J. Wint, 1st Lieut. L. Warrington, members, G. C.-M. Fort Reno, Ind. T., Feb. 8 (S. O. 11, D. M.)

Leave of Absence.—One month, to apply for extension of one month, Capt. E. M. Heyl, Fort Sill, I. T. (S. O. 9, D. M.)

Recruits.—The Supt. Mounted Recruiting Service will cause fifty recruits to be forwarded to Fort Sill, Ind. T., for 4th Cav. (S. O., Jan. 20, W. D.)

5TH CAVALRY, Col. W. Merritt.—Headquarters, and A, B, F, H, I, L, Fort D. A. Russell, W. T.; D, K, Sidney Bks., Neb.; C, G, E, M, Fort McPherson, Neb.

Detached Service.—A Board of Survey, to consist of Col. W. Merritt, Capt. J. S. Payne, 1st Lieut. W. P. Hall, Q. M., will meet at Cheyenne Depot, W. T., Jan. 22, for examining one hundred and forty-eight mules, reported unserviceable (S. O. 6, D. P.)

6TH CAVALRY, Col. James Oakes.—Headquarters and C, G, M, Camp Grant, A. T.; B, Camp Lowell, A. T.; K, Fort Whipple, A. T.; H, L, Camp Bowie, A. T.; A, D, Camp Apache, A. T.; E, Camp Verde, A. T.; I, Camp McDowell, A. T.; F, Camp on Gila, A. T.



Willet's Point, N. Y. H.—The members of Company B Battalion of Engineers, have issued invitations to a military ball to be given at Willet's Point, N. Y. H., Friday evening, Jan. 26. The affair will no doubt be as successful as Gen. Newton's little party at Hell Gate last summer.

## COURTS-MARTIAL REVIEWS.

From the Court-martial cases before us we take such comments of the reviewing officers as are of general application. In the case of Private Crosby (C), 17th Infantry, tried for striking his superior officer, found guilty and sentenced to dishonorable discharge and confinement for 5 years, Gen. Terry says:

The court formerly decided that "the prisoner will be allowed the greatest latitude in the cross-examination of witnesses for the prosecution, under the rules of evidence, confining himself to matters brought out upon the direct examination." This was a somewhat technical and confusing ruling, as a knowledge of the rules of evidence is possessed by but few enlisted men; while the fact that these are commissioners officers not fully informed upon the subject, is demonstrated by the refusal of the court to permit the prisoner to cross-examine witness called for the prosecution, because he had failed to fully identify the prisoner. He had, however, testified to the fracas between Lieut. Garrett and an enlisted man, at the time mentioned in the specification. This was the main issue, and the prisoner was entitled, under the rules of evidence to cross-examine him to the whole case. Courts should ever bear in mind, that the fullest possible investigation should be had of all the circumstances surrounding the alleged commission of offences by parties arraigned before them, as by such means alone can exact justice be done. The testimony of the prosecuting witness to the main facts, is contradicted by other witnesses for the prosecution and for the defence, and it is evident that his memory has not to be depended on. It is clearly established, however, that his own conduct was harsh and arbitrary, and his language disgraceful to himself and to the Service. So much of the sentence only as provides for confinement for a period of one year, is approved. In view, however, of the length of time the prisoner has been in confinement, the sentence is remitted. He will be released from confinement and restored to duty.

In the case of Private Riley (H), 17th Infantry, convicted of "Desertion," the statement made by the prisoner, is, in the opinion of the Department Commander, such a modification of his plea of guilty to the specification to the second charge, that without further evidence the court was not justified in finding him guilty of that specification. Gen. Terry says: It is true, that the accused formerly pleaded guilty to that specification, and that ordinarily a formal plea of guilty dispenses with other proof, but when the prisoner, in connection with such a plea, makes a statement which is wholly or even partially inconsistent therewith, the statement and plea should be taken together, and a prisoner ignorant of the forms of law—ignorant of the technical force of a plea of guilty—should be protected by the court itself. The court is not justified in accepting the plea as conclusive, while it gives no weight to the statement.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS.

## LIEUTENANT BALDWIN'S LATE FIGHT.

The following is an extract from Colonel Miles's official report of the recent battle with Sitting Bull's band: "Sitting Bull's band was again defeated at the head of the Redwater, December 18, by three companies of the 5th Infantry, under command of Lieutenant Frank D. Baldwin. The Indian trail was obscured by a severe snow-storm when north of the Missouri, and as the reports were conflicting, I divided my forces, taking three companies through the Mussel Shell and Dry Forks country, and sending three down the north side of the Missouri, four companies under Captain Snyder being there on the Dry Forks. Sitting Bull had crossed near Wolf Point, but retreated back again at the head of his camp of 122 lodges. He was driven south of the Yellowstone and his camp captured with many lodges standing, together with sixty horses, mules and ponies. Everything pertaining to the Indian village was burned. The Indians escaped with very little besides what they had on their backs. Lieutenant Baldwin and the officers and troops with him are entitled to great credit. The command has marched over five hundred miles—walking seventy-three in forty-eight hours—and endured the severity of Montana winter with great fortitude. Five prominent chiefs of the Sioux nation were killed by their old enemies, the Crow scouts, at this point on the 17th of December while coming in bearing a white flag, followed by some twenty or thirty others. The guilty Crows escaped by flight. This affair was most unfortunate, as their coming in would have secured the surrender of at least a thousand fighting men.

## WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THEM?

Recent despatches from Washington say that in view of the immediate probability that the hostiles will come soon under peaceful control, the President recently nominated agents for the Spotted Tail and Red Cloud Agencies, but with the understanding that the Indians should be detained as prisoners of war as long as the military authorities thought proper, "receiving the treatment of white men under the same circumstances," to quote a remark from the President recently. A few of the chiefs and Sitting Bull will probably be imprisoned a year or longer to break up their influence in their tribe. Should the expected recapture be made and the arrangements be completed to carry the last treaty with the Sioux into effect and transport them into the Indian Territory, an increase of nearly \$600,000 will be needed to the Indian Appropriation bill as passed to-day in the lower chamber. It appropriates about \$4,400,000, or \$270,000 less than the bill for the present fiscal year, the reduction being principally made on the appropriation for the Sioux from \$1,250,000 to \$1,000,000. An increase of this item to the amount indicated will be needed if present expectation of a final and peaceful solution of the Sioux problem is realized.

## MAIL CARRIER ATTACKED.

A telegram from Cheyenne, Jan. 23, says: The mail carrier between Hat Creek, W. T., and Red

Cloud was attacked by four Indians on his last trip, but escaped. On the return trip he met 50 friendly Sioux, who were en route to treat with Crazy Horse for his surrender. They reported that a party of 100 Cheyennes met them, and, on learning their mission, dismounted them, necessitating their return to the agency. Small bands of Indians have been seen between here and Indian Creek.

## A NEW EXPEDITION.

A new expedition against Crazy Horse is on foot, and it is reported that it will be placed under the command of Major Julius Mason, 3rd Cavalry (late captain 5th Cavalry). It is said by a correspondent of the N. Y. Sun that "his force will be composed largely of volunteer Sioux—Ogallalas, Brules, etc. Indeed, Spotted Tail has proposed and asked to go out with his entire individual band. The President, it will be remembered, conferred upon him the title of Grand Sachem of the Sioux nation, but his are a troublesome people, and unfortunately there are some who fear neither him nor the Great Father. Frank Gruard, the noted scout of Gen. Crook, will again accompany him. The Sioux difficulty is likely to be yet settled by those who caused it. The early spring will see an influx of miners into the Black Hills that nothing can stay. Even now they are assembling and outfitting at this and other contiguous points. There will not be sufficient gold to supply the demand, and thousands of unsuccessful men will either return or devote their attention to agriculture and stock. Towns will spring up with better ingredients of stability and success than mere mining settlements possess, and the Sioux will be forced to retire from their hunting grounds. The North Pacific Railroad may be built; and whether it be or not, the country immediately north of the Black Hills and about the Big Horn Mountains will become great and populous regions because of their intrinsic value."

## THE USE OF TROOPS IN THE SOUTH.

In reply to the resolution of the House of Representatives, passed early in December, 1876, requesting the President to transmit to that body copies of all orders or directions emanating from him or from either of the executive departments to any military commander or civil officer relating to the service of the Army in Virginia, South Carolina and Florida, since the 1st of August last, together with all reports from any of said military or civil officers, the President Jan. 29, sent to the House of Representatives a message in which, after stating the sources of his information, he continues as follows:

It is enough to say that these different kinds and sources of evidence have left no doubt whatever in my mind that intimidation has been used, and actual violence, to an extent requiring the aid of the United States where it was practicable to furnish such aid, in South Carolina and Florida and in Louisiana, as well as in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia. The troops of the United States have been but sparingly used, and in no case so as to interfere with the full exercise of the right of suffrage. Very few troops were available for the purpose of preventing or suppressing the violence and intimidation in the States above named. In no case, except that of South Carolina, was the number of soldiers in any State increased in anticipation of the election, saving that twenty-four men and an officer were sent from Fort Foote to Petersburg, Va., where disturbances were threatened prior to election.

No troops were stationed at the voting places in Florida and Louisiana respectively. The small number of soldiers in the said States were stationed at such points in each State as were most threatened with violence, where they might be available as a posse for the officer whose duty it was to preserve the peace and prevent the intimidation of voters. Such a disposition of the troops seemed to me reasonable, and justified by law and precedent; while its omission would have been inconsistent with the constitutional duty of the President of the United States to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." The statute expressly forbids the bringing of troops to the polls, except "where it is necessary to keep the peace," implying that to keep the peace it may be done; but this even, so far as I am advised, has not in any case been done. The stationing of a company or part of a company in the vicinity where they would be available to prevent a riot has been the only use made of troops prior to the election, and at the time of the election they were so stationed that they could be called in an emergency requiring it by a marshal or deputy marshal as a force to aid in suppressing unlawful violence.

The evidence which has come to me has left me no ground to doubt that if there had been more military force available it would have been my duty to have disposed of it in several States with a view to the prevention of violence and intimidation which have undoubtedly contributed to the defeat of the election law in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, as well as in South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida.

By article 4, section 4, of the Constitution, "the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and on application of the Legislature or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence. By act of Congress (R. S. U. S.,

sec. 1034-5) the President in case of "insurrection in any State" or of "unlawful obstruction to the enforcement of the laws of the United States by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings," or whenever "domestic violence in any State so obstructs the execution of the laws thereof and of the United States as to deprive any portion of the people of such State" of their civil or political rights, is authorized to employ such parts of the land and naval forces as he may deem necessary to enforce the execution of the laws and preserve the peace and sustain the authority of the State and of the United States. Acting under this title, I accompanied the sending of troops to South Carolina with a proclamation, such as is therein prescribed. The President is also authorized by act of Congress "to employ such part of the land or naval forces of the United States" as shall be necessary to prevent the violation and to enforce the due execution of the provisions of title 24 of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the protection of the civil rights of citizens, among which is the provision against conspiracies, to prevent by force, intimidation, or threat any citizen who is lawfully entitled to vote from giving his support or advocacy in a legal manner toward or in favor of the election of any lawfully qualified person as an elector for President or Vice President or as a member of Congress of the United States (U. S. R. S., 1789)." In cases falling under this title I have not considered it necessary to issue proclamation to precede or accompany the employment of such of the army as seemed to be necessary. In case of insurrection against a State government, or against the government of the United States, a proclamation is appropriate, but in keeping the peace of the United States at an election, at which members of Congress are elected, no such call from the State or proclamation from the President is prescribed by statute or required by precedent.

In the case of South Carolina, insurrection and domestic violence were so clearly shown and the application of the Governor thereof was duly presented, that I could not deny his constitutional request without abandoning my duty as the Executive of the national Government. The companies stationed in the other States have been employed to secure the better execution of the laws of the United States and to preserve the peace of the United States. After the election had been held and where violence was apprehended, by which the returns from the counties and precincts might be destroyed, troops were ordered to the State of Florida, and those already in Louisiana were ordered to the points in greatest danger of violence. I have not employed troops on slight occasions nor in any case where it has not been necessary to the enforcement of the laws of the United States. In this I have been guided by the Constitution and the laws which have been enacted and the precedents which have been formed under it.

It has been necessary to employ troops occasionally to overcome resistance to the internal revenue laws, from the time of the resistance to the collection of the whiskey tax in Pennsylvania, under Washington, to the present time.

In 1854, when it was apprehended that resistance would be made in Boston to the seizure and return to his master of a fugitive slave, the troops there stationed were employed to enforce the master's right under the Constitution, and troops stationed at New York were ordered to be in readiness to go to Boston if it should prove to be necessary.

In 1859, when John Brown, with small number of men, made his attack on Harper's Ferry, the President ordered United States troops to assist in the apprehension and suppression of him and his party, without a formal call of the Legislature or Governor of Virginia, and without proclamation of the President.

Without recalling further instances in which the Executive has exercised his power as commander of the Army and Navy to prevent or suppress resistance to the laws of the United States, or where he has exercised like authority in obedience to a call from a State to suppress insurrection, I desire to assure both Congress and the country that it has been my purpose to administer the executive powers of the government fairly, and in no instance to disregard or transcend the limits of the Constitution. U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Jan. 22, 1877.

THE result of a curious experiment recently made by two Southside shoemakers has just come to light, says the Pittsburgh *Despatch*: The men worked in the same shop, and one day they indulged in speculations regarding the utility of human skin in the manufacture of boots and shoes. Both were of opinion that it would answer the purpose. Arrangements were made with a college of physicians in Philadelphia, and they secured skin from the stomach and back of a man who had died suddenly from an accident, and upon whose remains corruption had not taken hold. The skin was put into a preparation of hemlock and oak barks, such ordinary process of tanning, and in was in a condition to be turned into a pair of boots. The process of its color to a light brown. It was calfskin. The skin was duly made, the soles being made of ordinary leather, to be warmer than boots made a calf, and it is believed that they will be every bit as serviceable.

(Extract from Col. Dodge's Book.)

## THE PLAINS OF THE GREAT WEST.

## THE PLAINS.

The whole western portion of the North American Continent, from the Isthmus of Darien to Behring Straits, from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, is a vast plateau, more or less elevated, through the general level of which many mountain ranges and systems push their heads to the limit of perpetual snow. The term "The Plains" is, however, specially applied to a comparatively restricted portion of this area, extending from the Guadalupe Mountains of Texas on the south to the British line on the north—from the Missouri River on the east to the Rocky Mountains on the west—from the thirtieth to the fiftieth parallel of latitude, and from the ninety-fifth to the one hundred and fifth degree of longitude. To the scientific geologist "The Plains" is a most interesting and exhaustive field. Its prominent geological features have not been so confused and defaced as in the other elevations, and the problems presented appear so comparatively easy as to attract the interest and attention of even the most unscientific observer. The first great upheaval—that which lifted from the waters the great mass of the Rocky Mountains—must have resulted in mountain heights to which those now on earth are comparatively molehills. From the ruins of these mountains the foundation of the Plains was to be formed. Their bases ceaselessly lashed by the ever restless ocean, their summits beaten by the deluges of rain which must have marked that early epoch, they were torn to fragments, and the detritus, carried nearer or further by the currents, were deposited in the layers where they now appear in a new creation of solid rocks. At their base, and stretching far to the eastward, are now miles upon miles of rounded stones, pebbles, and sand, the washings of ages, deposited at the mouths of rivers and streams in forms of bars, or piled in measureless heaps by the action of glaciers.

From evidence which will appear further on, there is no doubt, that the plains were for myriads of ages the *sport* of nature, and were successively upheaved and submerged partially or wholly; how often can probably never be known to human intelligence. I think, however, that every portion of land in this basin, not of the first grand mountain upheaval, can be referred to one of three subsequent horizontal upheavals which fix the distinctive character of the country, and each leaves its peculiar marks. The *first* of these, occurring probably about the period of fire, brought up the immense plateau called the "Raton Mountains," the "Mesa de Maio," the "Mesa Grande," on which is Fort Union, and many other more or less isolated plateaus, now having an elevation of from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. The peculiarity of this first horizontal elevation, is, that its upper surface is still a plain marked with ridges of burnt and half-molten rocks, and covered everywhere with lava and volcanic tufa, so hard as to defy the action of the elements. The land elevated by this upheaval rose perpendicularly from the sea, the upper surface remaining nearly horizontal, but inclining slightly to the eastward. The precipitous sides, formed of the hard igneous rock, show scarcely any evidence of wear even by the ages of exposure to the elements; and, although the ocean still washed its foot, this plain gave off no detritus. It rises from the plain below, almost as sheer and unmarked by the elements as if upheaved but a year ago. Wherever found in the volcanic regions, the distinctive features of this first plain are always the same.

Further north, out of the region of fire, this upheaval brought up to the same rocks, though unburned, and preserved the same characteristic perpendicularity of elevation. This has, however, been very greatly modified by the subsequent action of the elements; and while the upper surfaces even yet retain their general level, their sides are scored with ravines, and the *debris* falling from the top has rounded out the bottoms into almost the semblance of ordinary hills. The *second* great horizontal upheaval pushed still further above tide-water, the continent already formed, and added to it an immense area, forming what is now known as the "High Plains," with a present elevation of from 4,000 to 7,000 feet. Like the first upheaval, it evidently rose sheer from the water; but being of softer material it is, except in some marked places, washed by rains and the action of the sea into an apparent continuation of the third or lowest plain. In many places this second plain stands up almost as sharp and straight as the first, from which, however, it is readily distinguished by the more recent character of the rocks. It is through this second plain that the streams have cut the deep cañons which are so marked a feature in plains scenery; and when, as sometimes happens, a stream has had to work its way through the mass of material forming both first and second plains, the cañon formed is often sublime in its magnificent profundity. The *third* plain, comprising all the portion from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above tide-water to the general level of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, appears to have been very recently formed of material brought from the mountains and upper plains, and to have been slowly and gradually lifted, or rather silted, out of the waters. The general features and appearance give the idea of a subsidence of the waters rather than an elevation of the land, though the latter has been the process of its development. This plain is greater in extent than either of the others, and of an uniformity and sameness not only uninteresting, but monotonous. About sixty miles from Fort Lyon, on the new road to Fort Union, is one of the most magnificent and instructive views that ever met the eye of a lover of nature.

Every one has heard of the "Bad Lands," a singular formation which appears at intervals from the Loup River to the mouth of the Yellowstone. This was all, undoubtedly, once the bed of a very shallow lake, or inland sea, which must gradually have subsided, since

it remained for ages a marsh. The whole formation is full of the bones of animals, the larger of which are generally found in nearly a naturally upright position, as if the animals had mired in the morass. Imagine an immense irregular bowl-shaped depression in the earth, from four to ten miles in diameter. The sides, from 100 to 600 feet high, cut by the action of water into myriads of forms, "regular, irregular, and fantastic." The general bottom of the bowl is level, and scattered over it, in most picturesque irregularity, are hills and mounds, with their almost perpendicular faces cut into every conceivable and inconceivable design—castles and towers, domes and pinnacles, obelisks, monuments, and pyramids. The palace and the Indian "tepee" are here side by side, and all the varied forms are fluted by water, and frescoed in variously-colored earths, forming a grand and wonderful *coup d'œil* that no man can imagine or realize until he sees it.

## FOSSIL REMAINS.

Travel through these "Bad Lands" is not difficult. The ground is covered with fragments of the bones of animals and reptiles; and the man must indeed be insensible who can pass unmoved through these most magnificent burying-grounds of animals extinct before the advent of his race. Almost everywhere throughout the whole length and breadth of the Plains are found, in greater or less profusion, animal remains, fossils, shells, and petrifications. Bones are very numerous and in great variety, from the Saurian and Mastodon to the minutest reptile, ranging in point of time from the remotest ages to the present day.

When the Union Pacific Railroad was building, an attempt was made to obtain water for the engines by sinking a well at Julesburg. No water was obtained, but many interesting facts were developed, during the progress of the work, as to the nature of the great plains deposit. When the shaft had been sunk to a great depth (I think between 200 and 300 feet), the workmen came to an immense deposit of bones of animals in every state of preservation or decay. These, as they were brought to the surface, were eagerly picked over by curiosity-hunters, and the most perfect carried off. Sometime after this I was so fortunate as to be stationed at Fort Sanders, when that post was honored by a visit from Professor Agassiz. He had hardly been at the post twenty-four hours before (as, I am told, was usual with him) he had converted the whole garrison into enthusiastic naturalists, and everything rare or curious was brought to him for examination and explanation. One of the officers had a bone from the Julesburg well, which, after some trouble, was fished out of a box of similar treasures, where, carefully labelled, it had been stowed away as something most especially worth preserving. This was brought to the Professor, who examined it carefully, while we stood around in eager expectation. "It is," said he—in the broken English which gave additional charm to his most interesting and instructive conversation—"it is the bone of an antelope." "How," exclaimed several, in disappointed surprise, "could an antelope bone get three hundred feet underground?" "Ah, that," answered the Professor. "I do not know; but I do know that this is the leg-bone of an antelope."

In a small ravine, a dry tributary of "Two Butte Creek," I once came upon what appeared to be a sort of raft or obstruction of logs. As it is perfectly treeless country, I was led to a closer examination, and to my surprise found that the logs were stone. Never elsewhere have I seen petrifications so large or so perfect. One huge trunk of a pine-tree was about six feet in diameter and ten or twelve feet long. It was hollow, and a portion of the hollow part had been burned away. The bark, the wood, the hollow, the marks of fire, were all perfectly natural, yet the log was solid stone. Many other trunks, branches, and broken portions, were lying about or heaped in a sort of dam across the ravine, which even if full of water could scarcely have floated away the smallest of them as wood. One broken piece of heart-pine was as perfect as if just split from the log, with the "fat yellow" resin exuding between the layers; but all was stone. The place where these now lie is on what I designate as the "second plain," a high, and here nearly level table-land. At this time I doubt if there is a growing pine-tree within fifty miles of the spot, and I have never seen growing, in the most protected cañon of the Rocky Mountains, so large a pine-trunk as this petrification. The process of petrification seems in many cases to be inexplicable.

## CLIMATE.

The winters are peculiar. For a week each day will be clear, calm, and like a mild October day of the East. No overcoat is needed, and the presence of winter is scarcely recognized. Then comes a storm; the icy wind cuts like a knife, no clothing seems to keep it from the person, and penetrating to every part it drags out every particle of vital heat, leaving but a stiffened corpse of him who is so unfortunate as to be exposed to it.

An exposure to the full force and fury of a violent "plains Norther" would be certain death to any indigenous animal. Buffalo and antelope fly before it, and seek protection in the deepest and most wooded cañons. Near Julesburg, I once saw the snow dotted with the bodies of a great number of snow-birds frozen to death in a storm of a few days before. Men suffer more than other animals. Lacking the instinct of the latter, which enables them to presage the coming storm, men new to plains life, misled by the mildness of the ordinary winter weather, expose themselves possibly in light clothing on the plains, are caught in a storm and perish miserably in a few hours.

A gentleman competent, and in a position to form a correct estimate, once told me that at least one hundred buffalo-hunters had perished from cold in the country, within a hundred miles of the Arkansas River, in two years. During the winter of 1872-3 I

was in command at Fort Dodge, Kansas. At least seventy capital amputations were performed by the post surgeon on citizens who were buffalo-hunters or railroad employees, whilst a much greater number of frozen men were sent East for treatment. I think it safe to say that over 200 men in that vicinity lost hands or feet, or parts of them. One poor fellow had both hands and both feet taken off, and not only recovered, but was a few months ago in good health and attending to his usual business.

Fortunately for the habitability of the plains, these excessively severe storms occur only a few times during a winter, and are generally of but a few days duration. The cold itself is not intolerable. The danger is from the sharp wind, which drives the cold like icy daggers through the body. Great suffering can always be avoided, if it be possible to get out of the wind. A day which would be death on the high plain, may scarcely be uncomfortably cold in a thicket at the bottom of a deep narrow cañon. Indians and old plainsmen understand this perfectly, and nothing but absolute necessity will force either to encounter the risks of a journey on the plain during a storm. At the first symptom of its approach, all speed is made for the nearest deep wooded cañon, where they lie still until the storm is over. The Army frequently suffers greatly from these storms. It sometimes happens that a marauding and murdering band of Indians escapes during the summer the punishment which it deserves. It cannot travel in winter, not only because the Indian is more susceptible to cold than the white, but because his ponies are too poor and weak to carry him. A winter campaign is determined upon. Encumbered with trains, limited in rations, and most especially in forage, it is not always practicable for the troops to halt until the storm expends itself, even did a perfect knowledge of the country enable the officer in command to find a suitable place. At other times some military necessity, arising either from the Indians or from complications of the Indian Department, requires the movement of troops in mid-winter. The amount of suffering in all such cases can hardly be exaggerated.

While in command of Fort Sedgwick, in 1867, I was required to send a company of the 2d Cavalry to the Republican River in February. It had been gone but a few days when a most violent storm set in. At the proper time the company returned without the loss of a man, but this result was due entirely to the indomitable will and pluck of the captain in command. The company had to march for thirty miles in the teeth of the most terrific gale and blinding snow-storm, and in at least eighteen inches of snow. The men were made to dismount, and each, leading his horse, to take turns in opening the way through the snow. The cold and suffering were so intense and the toil so great, that some of the men refused to do more, and throwing themselves in the snow declared their intention of dying there rather than make another effort. Orders, entreaties, and threats, all proving alike unavailing, the captain finally fell upon them with the flat of his sabre, belabored them into the ranks, and brought all in safety to the post. In the winter of 1865-6 a considerable command was caught on the Cimarron, and barely escaped total destruction. An officer who was with it describes the sufferings as most fearful. Many men were more or less frostbitten, and about 600 animals frozen or starved to death. The recent sufferings of a command sent into the Black Hills are fresh in the minds of all. It is easy, seated in a comfortable office, and by a good fire, to give orders for a winter campaign or movement of troops on the plains, but it usually means death to somebody. This is of course a part of the soldier's bargain, and it is the pride of our soldiers to obey orders, whether they lead to death by the cold of a plains storm, or by the heat of the Indian stake. But such men deserve that there shall always be a necessity.

The annual report of the surveys west of the 100th meridian, under direction of Lieut. Wheeler, of the United States Corps of Engineers, is now about ready for issue. It will exhibit many interesting facts regarding the topography and resources of the regions contained in Colorado, New Mexico and California during the last fiscal year.

Mrs. Anderson, widow of the late Gen. Robert Anderson, U. S. A., has been awarded a verdict of 1,500 francs in a suit brought by her against the jeweler, Leclerc of Paris. Mrs. Anderson had sent certain articles of jewelry to be cleaned by the defendant. A valuable ring was lost or stolen while in the jeweler's care, and he was compelled to reimburse the plaintiff in one-half of the damages claimed, viz., 3,000 francs.

The Spanish engineers, consisting of several non-commissioned officers and a detachment of twenty-four privates of the Spanish army, under the command of Col. Marin, sailed for home on the steamship *Lord Clive* Jan. 22. They were escorted through the city of Philadelphia by the State Fencibles, and at the State House they took leave of Mayor Stokely and the city officials. They have been in that city nearly eleven months.

The Milwaukee *Wisconsin* of the 17th inst. has this personal mention: "The Soldiers' Home at the present time contains a brace of inmates who bear wonderful histories. Capt. William Weir is the principal of the two. He is known as a veteran of many wars, having served under Gen. Scott in the Mexican war, in the United States Army. His military career began with 1840, and in 1841 he served at Fort Winnibago, in Co. I, 1st regiment, known as the Gen. Taylor regiment, and also rendered famous as containing on its roll the name of Jefferson Davis. He has had an exciting experience on the frontier, and in the late Rebellion he was captain of Co. C, in the 33d Wisconsin Volunteers. The record of this regiment is already well-known. Capt. Weir shared its privations, hardships, and honors to the last. His health is now on the decline, and he contemplates a trip to the South. John Dean, his comrade in age and experience, began active life in the Black Hawk war, but has also passed through numerous other conflicts and the civil strife. Both of these men are honored far and near, and are passing their old age in the peace that their activity, patriotism and bravery have justly entitled them to."

## THE NAVY.

ULYSSES S. GRANT, President and Commander-in-Chief  
GEORGE M. ROBESON, Secretary of the Navy.

BUREAUS OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.  
YARDS AND DOCKS—Commodore Jno. C. Howell.  
NAVIGATION—Commodore Daniel Ammen.  
ORDNANCE—Captain Wm. N. Jeffers.  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY—Surgeon-General Wm. Grier.  
PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING—P. M. G. J. O. Bradford.  
STEAM ENGINEERING—Eng. in-Chief Wm. W. W. Wood.  
CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR—Chief Constructor I. Hanscom.

FLAG OFFICERS AFLAFT.  
EUROPEAN STATION—Rear-Admiral Jno. L. Worden.  
ASIA STATION—Rear-Admiral Wm. Reynolds.  
NORTH PACIFIC—Rear-Admiral Alex. Murray.  
SOUTH PACIFIC—Rear-Admiral C. H. B. Caldwell.  
NORTH ATLANTIC—Rear-Admiral S. D. Trenchard.

FLAG OFFICERS ON SHORE DUTY.  
NAVAL OBSERVATORY—Rear-Admiral Charles H. Davis, Supt.  
NAVAL ASYLUM, PHILADELPHIA—Rear-Admiral J. R. M.  
Millany.  
NAVAL ACADEMY—Rear-Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers.

COMMANDANTS NAVY YARDS.  
Rear-Admiral John Rodgers, Navy-yard, Mare Island.  
Commodore Foxhall A. Parker, Boston, Mass.  
Commodore J. W. A. Nicholson, New York.  
Commodore John C. Febiger, Washington, D. C.  
Commodore J. Blakely Creighton, Norfolk, Va.  
Captain Clark H. Wells, League Island, Penn.  
Captain Earl English, Portsmouth, N. H.  
Commander George E. Belknap, Pensacola, Fla.

## VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

The Russian corvette *Bogatyr* sailed from Port Royal, Jan. 22, for Hampton Roads.

The *Shawmut* was put out of commission, at Norfolk, Jan. 22.

CAPTAIN JOHN LEE DAVIS reported at New York, on Jan. 23, for the command of the *Trenton*.

His Imperial Highness, Grand Duke Alexis, visited the Norfolk yard, Jan. 22, and was received with the proper honors, and a salute of 21 guns from the *Worcester*.

COMMANDER M. HAXTUN sailed from New York, in steamer of Jan. 17, for Europe, to take command of the *Vandalia*. This vessel was at Smyrna, Dec. 28, waiting permission to pass the Dardanelles and go up to Constantinople. A disturbance is reported to have occurred at Smyrna, between some of the crew of that vessel and parties on shore, in which one of the latter was killed.

The mates in the U. S. Navy have petitioned to Congress, praying that they may be granted warrants and placed on the same footing with warrant officers in the Navy. They ask this on the ground that most of them have been identified with the service from twelve to twenty years, and some have received injuries therein. There are now forty-six of these mates, who received appointments prior to the act of July 15, 1870, which prohibited the appointment after that date of temporary acting officers, except in the Medical Corps. This grade, therefore, seems to be a temporary one only, as no additions have been made to it since the prohibitory act.

The Sub-committee of the House Judiciary Committee, to which the evidence and the report of the investigation of the Navy Department was referred last session, reported Jan. 23 that no fraud or corruption had been shown against the Secretary; that the violation of law alleged to exist in his department were principally in matters of detail, and under provisions of law which were merely directory, with no penalties attached, or upon which the Secretary has a right of judgment; that the case of Jay Cooke, McCulloch and Co. was a question of construction of law, upon which there might fairly be a difference of opinion, and that the Government had suffered no loss therefrom, and say that no articles of impeachment against the Secretary should be presented or could be sustained. Upon the making of such report, the Judiciary Committee unanimously passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That articles of impeachment ought not to be preferred against Geo. M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy, for violations of the law which have occurred in his department, because there is no criminal intent or corrupt motive on his part which would constitute such violations—'high crimes or misdemeanors'—under the meaning of the Constitution; and that the Judicial Committee be discharged from any further consideration of the subject.

PROFESSOR RICHARD SOMERS SMITH, the Head of the Department of Drawing, at the Naval Academy, died at his residence, within the Academic grounds, on the 23rd Jan. Rear Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers, in reporting to the Department the death of Professor Smith, says: "The greater part of his life has been given to the public service, and for six years he has been the Head of a Department at the Naval Academy. His loss will be deeply deplored by every one here, for his life was one of exemplary virtue and remarkable kindness. As assistant professor at West Point, as president of Girard College, and as professor at the Naval Academy, his refined taste, his broad culture, and his genial temper, have won him hosts of friends, and, it is believed, that in the whole world he had no enemy. He will be buried with military and academic honors, and his memory will be affectionately cherished by all of us who had the good fortune to be his associates." Prof. Smith was born in Philadelphia in 1813, and was graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1834 as a

topographical engineer. He resigned his position in the Army in 1856, to return on the opening of the civil war as major of the 12th Infantry, a rank which he held until 1863, when he was put in command of a brigade, and did service at the battle of Chancellorsville. In 1863 he again resigned his position in the Army.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us as follows: "Mare Island was Saturday, Jan. 13, the scene of festivity. An informal hop was given by Admiral Rodgers and his officers, complimentary to the officers of the Russian flagship, lying off the island. The hop was on board of the receiving-ship *Independence*, which was beautifully decorated with flags for the occasion. The upper deck aft was the supper or lunch room, and the tables were laden with every delicacy one could desire. Too much credit cannot be given for this tasty display, all of which had been prepared on board of one of the steamers—if I mistake not, the coast survey steamer, under Lieut.-Comdr. Taylor. The floral decorations were very beautiful. Vessels were waiting at Vallejo to convey guests to the *Independence*, and another brought those from San Francisco. The hop lasted from 1 to 6 P.M., as long as daylight and twilight gave their consent, as no arrangements had been made for lighting. Dancing on the upper deck was carried on with great spirit. The Russian officers prefer the polka and galop to other round dances; in fact, in their motions they are quick and nervous—a style more suited to these dances than the waltz. They have a fine physique, intelligent faces, and most of them speak English. In stature they are much shorter than our officers of the Army or Navy. The guests were received by Admiral (called 'fighting John' in the Navy) and Mrs. Rodgers, and Captain and Mrs. Pattison. Among those present were Admiral McDougal, Comdr. Casey, Lt.-Comdr. Taylor, Chief Engineer Fletcher, and a number whose names cannot be recalled. The ladies appeared to great advantage, and, as in duty bound, smiled upon our guests, the Russians. In fact, I think we, Americans, take very naturally to them, and well we may, for Russia has always been America's best friend."

Uniform Circular. NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, January 16, 1877.

The sack-coat heretofore authorized by the Regulations, will cease to be worn as uniform by Commissioned Officers, Midshipmen, Cadet Midshipmen and Cadet Engineers after the first of July next, and a service coat of the following description, will be substituted therefor, from that date.

The coat shall be of dark-blue cloth, standing collar, single breasted, with a "fly" front, always to be worn buttoned to the neck. The collar and edges of the coat, and the side seams of the back, from the shoulder to lower edge of skirt, to be trimmed with lustrous black braid one inch and a quarter wide, inside of which shall be a narrow black silk braid one-eighth of an inch wide, placed one eighth of an inch from the broader braid.

The coat to be shaped to the figure, and to fall as low as the upper joint of the thumb when hanging naturally by the side. There shall be a slit over each hip, extending five inches from the bottom of the coat, and trimmed with the prescribed braid.

The collar shall be cut as per pattern, and on it shall be worn the same grade marks as are prescribed for the shoulder straps of each grade, except that the bars worn by officers below the rank of Lieutenant Commander shall be of silver instead of gold. The grade marks shall be embroidered in high relief, and shall be one inch in width. (Stamped metal grade marks shall not be worn.) The distinction lace on the cuffs shall be of lustrous black braid, instead of gold lace, as prescribed for other coats.

The coat may be of dark-blue Cheviot during the summer months. It must not be made of flannel.

GEO. M. ROBESON, Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, January 18, 1877.

Special Order.

The Secretary of the Navy, with deep regret, announces the death of the oldest officer in the Naval service.

Rear-Admiral Joseph Smith died, at his residence in this city, on Wednesday morning, the 17th inst., in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

This gallant officer was born in Massachusetts, March 30, 1790, and entered the Navy, from the merchant service, in January, 1809. He rose rapidly in his profession, and honorably distinguished himself in every grade. For his gallantry on Lake Champlain, in September, 1814, he received a medal from Congress. For nearly a quarter of a century he filled, with great ability, the office of Chief of one of the Bureaus of the Navy Department. In 1871 he withdrew from active service, though still in a vigorous old age.

His death will be universally lamented by the service and the country.

Admiral Smith's funeral will take place at St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, in this city, on Friday, the 20th instant, at 11 o'clock A.M.

The officers of the Navy and of the Marine Corps are requested to be present in undress uniform, as best suited to the present season.

On the day of the funeral, the flags of the Navy-

yard in this city will be kept at half-mast from sunrise till sunset, and thirteen minute guns will be fired at noon. The same honors will be paid and the same number of guns fired at the other Navy-yards and Naval Stations, and on the flagships of the several squadrons of the Navy, on the day after the receipt of this order.

All officers of the Navy and of the Marine Corps will wear the usual badge of mourning for 30 days.

GEO. M. ROBESON, Secretary of the Navy.

## NAVY GAZETTE.

## REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE

## ORDERED.

JANUARY 18.—Ensign T. H. Holmes, to the receiving ship Independence, at Mare Island, Cal.

Assistant Surgeon J. C. Byrnes, to the Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Mass.

JANUARY 19.—Midshipman Charles H. Ammen, to the Hartford, at Hampton Roads, Va.

JANUARY 23.—Commander Richard L. Law, to duty as senior aid at the Navy-yard, Norfolk, Va., on the 1st March next.

Medical Inspector A. C. Gorgas, to attend officers of the Navy at Annapolis, not otherwise provided with medical aid, in addition to his present duties.

JANUARY 24.—Pay Director Robert H. Clark, to duty as inspector, etc., at the Navy-yard, League Island, and also for duty on board the receiving ship St. Louis on the 1st February next.

## DETACHED.

JANUARY 18.—Assistant Surgeon E. H. Marsteller, from the Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Mass., and ordered to the Tallapoosa, at Washington, D. C.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Thomas Owens, from the Tallapoosa, and placed on waiting orders.

JANUARY 23.—Commander Oscar F. Stanton, as senior aid at the Navy-yard, Norfolk, Va., on the 1st March next, and placed on waiting orders.

Ensign C. B. T. Moore, from the Alliance, and ordered to the training ship Monongahela, at Baltimore, Md.

JANUARY 24.—Lieutenant Murray S. Day, from special duty, and placed on waiting orders.

Pay Inspector C. P. Wallach, from duty as inspector, etc., at the Navy-yard, League Island, and from the receiving ship St. Louis on the 1st February next, and ordered to settle accounts.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED.

To Lieutenant Charles S. Sperry for two weeks from Jan. 11. To Lieutenant J. R. Selfridge for one month from Jan. 23.

## APPOINTED.

Marshall Oliver Professor of Drawing and head of Department of Drawing at the Naval Academy from Jan. 24, 1877.

## ORDERS MODIFIED.

The orders of Acting Assistant Surgeon Thomas Owens detaching him from the Tallapoosa, and to remain on duty on board that vessel until the 23d February next.

## SUSPENDED.

The orders of Assistant Surgeon E. H. Marsteller detaching him from the Chelsea Hospital and ordering him to the Tallapoosa, and to remain on duty at the hospital until further orders.

## NOMINATED TO THE SENATE.

Medical Director William Grier to be Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, vice Medical Director Joseph Beale, retired.

## COMMISSIONED.

Midshipman John W. Beane to be an Ensign in the Navy from July 16, 1875.

Midshipmen George H. Peters, Bradley A. Fiske, Frank H. Holmes, John W. Stewart, Henry Rich, Lucien Firne, John F. Parker, Hamilton Hutchins, John M. Bowyer, John C. Colwell, William R. Rooney, Matthew G. Reynolds, George E. Hutter, Warner H. Nostrand, Edward J. Don, Winslow Alderdice, Wm. E. Whittfield, Charles W. Haskell, Bernard O. Scott, Lyman Arms, Frederick W. Danner, David Peacock, Edwin L. Reynolds and John O. Nicholson to be Ensigns in the Navy from July 17, 1874.

Medical Inspector Jacob W. Dungan to be a Medical Director in the Navy from December 31, 1876.

Surgeon William E. Taylor to be a Medical Inspector in the Navy from December 31, 1876.

Passed Assistant Surgeon George S. Culbreth to be a Surgeon in the Navy from December 31, 1876.

Millard H. Crawford to be an Assistant Engineer in the Navy from November 1, 1876.

James C. Byrnes and George P. Lumden to be Assistant Surgeons in the Navy from November 2, 1876.

Frank C. Dale to be an Assistant Surgeon in the Navy from November 6, 1876.

Pay Inspector James Fulton to be a Pay Director in the Navy from August 28, 1876.

Paymaster Henry M. Denniston to be a Pay Inspector in the Navy from August 19, 1876.

Paymaster Richard Washington to be a Pay Inspector in the Navy from August 28, 1876.

Passed Assistant Paymaster Henry T. Skelding to be a Paymaster in the Navy from August 9, 1876.

Passed Assistant Paymaster Charles W. Slamm to be a Paymaster in the Navy from August 28, 1876.

Assistant Paymaster Curtis H. Thomson to be a Passed Assistant Paymaster in the Navy from August 19, 1876.

Thomas D. Hooley to be an Assistant Paymaster in the Navy from September 1, 1876.

Hiram E. Drury and Charles W. Littlefield to be Assistant Paymasters in the Navy from September 1, 1876.

Richard Hayward to be a Chaplain in the Navy from October 2, 1876.

Assistant Engineer Thomas J. W. Cooper to be a Passed Assistant Engineer in the Navy from July 6, 1876.

Assistant Engineers George Cowie, Jr., and Charles F. Howell to be Passed Assistant Engineers in the Navy from December 3, 1876.

George W. Snyder to be an Assistant Engineer in the Navy from October 9, 1876.

Ulysses S. G. White to be a Civil Engineer in the Navy from January 9, 1877.

## LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Secretary General, for the week, ending January 24, 1877:

James J. Applegate, seaman, January 13, Naval Hospital, Norfolk.

Bragan, seaman, January 16, Naval Hospital, Norfolk, from Russian frigate Svetlana.

Sosireff, seaman, January 18, Naval Hospital, Norfolk, from Russian frigate Svetlana.

## CHANGES IN THE MARINE CORPS.

## COMMISSIONED.

Major Thomas Y. Field to be a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Marine Corps from November 1, 1876.

Captain Charles Haywood to be a Major in the Marine Corps from November 1, 1876.

First Lieutenant William Wallace to be a Captain in the Marine Corps from October 3, 1876.

First Lieutenant Charles F. Williams to be a Captain in the Marine Corps from November 1, 1876.

Second Lieutenant Samuel H. Gibson to be a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps from October 3, 1876.

Second Lieutenant Benjamin R. Russell to be a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps from November 1, 1876.

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**U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.**

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**THE MILITARY ACADEMY.**

FOR some reason, not apparent to those who have given the subject of military education, and of education in a larger sense, the most careful study, the House of Representatives has curtailed the original proportions of the estimates for West Point. By diminishing allowances to the instructors and for auxiliary purposes they have the satisfaction of saving a few thousand dollars at the expense of diverting the attention of officers from their public duties to their personal deprivations, and to this extent diminishing their efficiency as instructors. It is to be hoped that this penny-wise policy will receive its quietus in the Senate; there is too much real, serious work before Congress, to leave time for such injudicious and trifling legislation.

We commend to the attention of our legislators who would understand the value of this institution to the country the pamphlet just issued by the Adjutant of the Academy, Col. HALL, giving a list of cadets admitted, from the establishment of the Military Academy in 1800 until Sept. 30, 1876. With this list are given the tables, to which we some time since referred, showing the results of the examinations for admission, and the corps to which the graduates have been promoted. During the last forty years, say 1838-76, there have been 3,302 candidates admitted out of 4,590 appointments. Of these 763 were rejected by the Academic Board, 145 by the Medical Board, and 389 failed to report, declined appointment, etc. The whole number of cadets admitted to the Academy from 1800 to 1876 is 5,721. In 1838 out of 113 candidates 2 only fell short of the mental requirements; in 1846, 5 out of 108; in 1856, 17 out of 89; in 1866, 17 out of 87; and in 1876, 53 out of 151. The largest proportion thrown over for mental deficiencies in any one year was in 1870, when 73 out of 138 candidates failed to pass the preliminary examination; and the smallest in 1847, 1 out of 75. Including and prior to the year 1873 there have been admitted 5,413 cadets, and of these 2,640 were graduated within the period ending Sept. 30, 1876—being over 48 per centum of all who have entered during three-quarters of a century. Of appointments, New York has of course had the "lion's share," 750; Pennsylvania, next, with 525; Virginia, 399; Ohio, 315; Massachusetts, 272; Kentucky, 232; North Carolina, 216; Tennessee, 204; Delaware and Rhode Island almost the same number each, 46 and 49. Of the whole number of graduates, the engineers have received 228; the ordnance, 72; artillery, 946; cavalry, 399; infantry, 987; marines, 5; and three were not commissioned.

In this pamphlet we have the names of all who ever crossed the threshold of the Academy: the fortunate and the unfortunate; the distinguished and the obscure. But what West Point has done in the past for military education, as shown in this record of its history, is not sufficient in itself to entitle it to continued support. This is an exacting age, and one which demands, and justly demands, that

present service and not past achievements should be made the test of value. And it is here that the complaint is made against the Military Academy, if we are to judge from the criticisms we find in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*. The *Democrat* fails to discover any evidence of faithful, profitable labor in the system of instruction, which has endured so long and can boast of such noble results. It says, "the truth is that in the past quarter of a century there has been a complete revolution in the art of education, a complete change in the whole range, scope and method of education, and that West Point and Annapolis are probably the only two schools in the civilized world which do not seem even to have heard of a new order of things."

This is not a new complaint, but it has been so often shown to be a vain and frivolous one, that it scarcely requires notice here. Undoubtedly the system has changed, but in some respects the change has been modelled upon the West Point pattern—notably in the recognition of physical culture as part of an academic course: it is immaterial whether the musket, the saddle, or the oar are the auxiliaries of modern institutions. Schools which, like West Point and Annapolis, turn out experts in science and the arts of peace in greater proportion than any other military schools in the world; which encourage and provide for a constant and periodical infusion of young blood into their corps of instructors; the assistants taken from positions where for years they have been testing the very theories they are now called upon to impart; which are the only institutions in this country where law—military, civil, and international—is taught from the freshest and newest precedents, by officers who have represented the Government in many cases which will be hereafter quoted as examples and authorities—such schools are certainly progressive. College practices which were deeply rooted in England and America, and possessed the strength of great antiquity, first died violent deaths at West Point and Annapolis.

It is a common error in speaking of West Point to ignore the peculiar conditions which led to its establishment, have contributed to its health in the past, and on which depends its existence in the future. It is a special school, and for a special class; it is intended to make—not men of letters but soldiers, pure and simple. If the mill sometimes grinds finer than usual, and the product is of a high literary and scientific order, so much the better. That the school does its work satisfactorily we have but to point to all the bloody fields where Americans have striven; to Egypt, where West Point skill is at a premium; to Japan, who sends her young princes as candidates for admission; or—at home—to our river and harbor improvements; to our torpedo system of defence, and to many civil enterprises in which the mental and physical discipline and experience of West Point are deemed necessary auxiliaries. Perhaps the highest compliment, and a fact having a direct bearing upon the question, is the general approval of other institutions of learning, and the desire of faculties to secure as colleagues the *élèves* of West Point to fill chairs of Military Science.

That the standard of admission may be rather low in some respects, we believe the academic staff is fully aware; but the remedy is not in their hands. "The People" must be given a foothold upon what most taxpayers regard as their own property. If the standard were elevated, only those who could afford a "liberal" education and whose parents were prosperous, could hope to enter, and our friend the *Globe* would change its war-cry to "Aristocratic Nursery." As it is, a large proportion of those who enter at West Point have had a good deal of preparation, and those who fall by the way do not disturb their brighter comrades other than perhaps stimulating them to renewed exertions.

Mr. CLYMER, in promoting the passage of the Appropriation bill, alluded to the undue number of officers on the academic staff as a reason why their emoluments and allowances should be cut down. Would it not be more just to reduce the number and return them to their regiments or corps, than to retain all and deprive them of the means of performing their duties creditably—thus piling one evil upon another? Unlike Yale or Harvard and other colleges, the Military Academy is a sort of National "lion" or show place. No foreigner of distinction ever visits this country without "doing" West Point

in his tour. Very often they have companions or staff officers, and these with the local committees or other American friends make an imposing suite which must be looked after. For this purpose the Superintendent calls to his aid the "Academic" as well as the "Military" staff. At other times visitors—not seldom members of Congress stop at the Point for a day or two with their families, and although they may lodge at the Hotel—they are entitled to and do receive such attention and modest hospitality as the resources of officers will afford. The proximity of the Academy to our great Metropolis, encourages a certain interchange of courtesies, social and professional, which indirectly tends to strengthen and perpetuate the good feeling which should always exist between the Government and the people.

A certain amount of "entertaining," as above, is going on constantly; it is not generally known; it does not appear in the papers; but it is part of the duty, and often the pleasure, of the officers and professors to dispense hospitality, which, however simple and unpretentious, is still in the long run expensive, and this is why a reduction of pay or allowances at West Point works positive hardship in many instances. Officers are not sent there of their own motion, and consequently they should not be made to do penance for obeying orders.

The salaries at West Point are higher, doubtless, than those of some colleges, but not higher nor so high as those of others, and it is certainly just that the comparison of a Government institution should be with the most favored institutions of learning and not with those which are condemned by insufficient endowment to a parsimony which is the result of necessity and not of wise choice. The strictly professional income of a single professor at Columbia College, is, as we have reason to believe, equal to the combined salaries of all the professors at the Military Academy, and it is entirely unjust in estimating the cost of the Military Academy to include in it, as Mr. Clymer does, the expense of the military post at West Point, which was established before the Academy was thought of.

#### RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

TURKEY astonishes her friends and confounds her enemies by the alacrity with which she accepts the issue of war with Russia. After the old women of the diplomatic council had settled things comfortably, over a cup of tea, and announced to Turkey the part she was expected to play in their programme, the Grand Council of the Turkish Empire, on the 18th of January, after an animated debate rejected the proposals of the European powers as contrary to the dignity, integrity, and independence of the Empire. Several speeches were made, but perfect agreement prevailed. That we have not overestimated the force of those currents of popular feeling, which were drifting Russia and Turkey into war, is shown by the fact that the prudential reasons for less energetic action urged by the Turkish ministry had no effect whatever upon the Council. The telegraph report of the proceedings tells us that after three hours had been occupied in listening to a statement of the events which have occurred since the outbreak of the insurrection in Herzegovinia, MIDHAT PASHA made a long speech, in the course of which he gave an account of the Turkish counter-proposals and the concessions which the Porte, in a spirit of conciliation, had made upon points where the constitution would not thereby be infringed, and inveighed in strong terms against the interference of the European powers as unjustifiable and offensive to Turkish independence. He dwelt on the gravity of the situation. He spoke of the departure of the plenipotentiaries, the possibility of war, the horrors attending it, the injury it would do to the internal affairs of the country, the impossibility of procuring funds for a war, and the fact that Turkey could not rely upon any alliance. He pointed out that the many millions of cartridges which the Turks would require must come from America at the risk of capture by hostile privateers, and he concluded by declaring that the situation was unfavorable for war. Several speeches followed, the most noteworthy being made by the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs, the last of whom was shouted down as he ventured to suggest the matter should be left to the discretion of the government. All the speakers

repelled the idea of accepting the European proposals. MIDHAT PASHA again pointed out the gravity of the crisis and the distress which would result from a war. The Council, after hearing all the speakers, unanimously rejected the proposals amid shouts of "Death before dishonor," sixty Christians in the Council joining in the cry.

This has the ring of the true metal, and, however much our sympathies may be with the Christian as against the Moslem, we cannot but respect such an outbreak of patriotic fervor. Those who despise the Turk as an antagonist have something yet to learn. That Russia does not show by her action, but she too is the sport of circumstances, and is swept on to her destiny by the strong current of a national sentiment her rulers may direct but cannot wholly resist, if they would.

The real master of the European situation is, however, Germany. How firmly she has Russia within her grasp is shown by the letter we this week publish, from an intelligent and unusually well informed European correspondent, to which we especially direct the attention of our readers. Our correspondent shows how with Germany hostile "the masters of half Asia and two-thirds of Europe are virtually under arrest in their own dominions;" that Russia is unprepared for war, without a real navy and without one of the essentials for the formation of a navy, with plenty of men at sea, "but no seamen;" with more fighting men but fewer soldiers than any power in Europe, and with more subjects but less revenue available for war than any first-class power. He may speak with some of the prejudice of an Englishman, but he speaks, too, from long acquaintance with Russia, in which country he has resided for seven years.

#### JOINT COMMISSION ON THE NAVY.

THE consideration in the House of Representatives of the bill authorizing the "formation of a mixed commission to inquire and report as to the future naval policy of the Government of the United States," which was made the special order for Jan. 23, has been postponed until the 30th inst. For the benefit of those who may not have seen our former résumé, we will state, once more, that this bill, in substance, provides for the appointment of nine members, to report to Congress the actual condition of the Navy—*matériel* and *personnel*. The commission will also furnish a summary statement of the naval resources of the country; indicate the floating force advisable to be maintained in time of peace; the reserve necessary to have ready for actual service in the event of war; and, in general, to present such a full and comprehensive view of the Navy—its efficiency and its present and prospective needs—as will enable Congress to legislate intelligently on all subjects relating to naval affairs.

Should this bill become a law, it will afford an opportunity for perfecting the organization of our Navy, such as has never before, in our history, been presented. The commission is so composed as to relieve it of even a suspicion of partisanship; only enough of the military element being introduced for the proper discussion of purely military and technical questions. In regard to our national defences, in which the military plans of both land and sea forces must naturally supplement each other, we may look for the most advanced and enlightened views; while in respect to the just proportion which should subsist between the tonnage of the national and that of the commercial marine, or between the former and our extensive sea and lake coasts, no doubt we shall find in the report the question determined from a politico-military point of view, in a manner satisfactory alike to the strategist and the taxpayer.

We indulge the hope too, that the commission, considering that harmony among the several parts is absolutely essential to the efficiency of the whole, will recommend such legislation as may adjust the differences unhappily existing between the line officers and their brethren of the staff. The commission may, indeed, be regarded as a high court before which each officer, or each class of officers, having grievances incidental to the present status of the Navy, may plead their own cause with the moral certainty of a patient hearing and an impartial judgment. No such opportunity for the accommodation of outstanding difficulties has ever been

afforded the Navy; and, should it fail now, may not be again for years. In this view of the subject, we earnestly commend to all officers of the Navy—line and staff—the wisdom of supporting this measure, or of ever hereafter holding their peace.

THERE is some doubt whether the Board for the Re-organization of the Army will be able to fulfil its mission. Four of the seven members are in Congress, and have, since December, been so occupied with their legislative duties, that no progress has been made in the work of the Commission. A meeting has been called for Thursday evening of this week, but it is doubtful whether the attention of the Congressional members can be obtained. It will be to the advantage of the Army, however, if the report of the Commission is delayed until the next Congress. The legislative mind is just now too exclusively occupied with politics to give proper attention to Army interests. Until we know who is President, and what the temper of the next Congress is to be, it is wise to maintain the *status quo*. The Board have gathered a large mass of material for consideration. Beside manuscript, there are printed briefs from the chiefs of the different bureaus of the War Department, opinions by leading officers of the line, and an interesting compilation of official documents, illustrative of the organization of the Army of the United States from 1789 to 1876. We hope to be able to make use hereafter of some of the interesting facts and statistics brought together for the use of the Commission.

THE Trustees of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL Fund, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the officers and enlisted men of the 7th Cavalry, propose to make a final distribution, on the 1st of March proximo, of the funds remaining in their hands. We would request, therefore, that all persons having contributions for the fund will see that they are remitted previous to that date.

Gen. BELKNAP has been awaiting trial before the civil courts for the last ten months, and has now made a demand for immediate trial, to the U. S. Assistant District Attorney, at Washington.

SINCE the last meeting of the United States Naval Institute quite a large number of new members have been enrolled, the objectionable features in the old constitution having been removed. These objections seem to have kept many away who are now coming in. The officers of all corps of the Navy are eligible to memberships and it is hoped that many will join. Associate members are provided for in the organization. Associates are persons who do not belong to the Navy, but who are interested in naval science and improvements. It is hoped that some of our prominent civilians, ordnance inventors and constructors, shipbuilders, astronomers, electricians, chemists and surgeons will come forward to assist an object in which they must all take an interest. Papers are wanted on all subjects of naval or nautical interest. Those wishing to join have only to send their names to the Secretary of the Naval Institute, Annapolis, Md. It is hoped that the officers on the several stations and in the several squadrons will join and organize themselves, electing vice-presidents and corresponding secretaries.

A very brilliant wedding took place at Albany, N. Y., Jan. 24, in which the contracting parties were Miss Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, of that city, and First Lieutenant Thomas H. Barber, of the 1st Artillery, Asst. Professor of French at the Military Academy. The ceremony came off at the First Presbyterian Church, and was witnessed by a throng of Albanians, and a liberal representation from the Service. The Albany *Argus* says: "At twenty minutes past eight o'clock, the excited expectation of the company present was gratified as the organ and orchestra struck up Auber's beautiful overture to *Messanella*. A moment later the Rev. Dr. Blayney stepped from the vestry to the front of the pulpit, the doors were flung wide open, and to the inspiring strains of the wedding march, the bridal procession passed down the central aisle in the following order, while the company remained standing: Dr. Franklin Townsend, Jr., Isaac Vanderpoel, Geo. P. Jackson and Bayard Van Rensselaer, ushers; Capt. Barber with Mrs. Howard Townsend; Misses Johnson of Utica, Thayer of Boston, Reynolds of Kinderhook, Townsend of Syracuse, Berry of Washington, Pierson of Albany, Talcott of Albany and Cooper of Albany, bridesmaids, with Lieuts. Reynolds, Johnson, Payson, Tillman, Bass, Palfrey, Michler, Howard Townsend, groomsmen; Gen. Franklin Townsend and the bride, Miss Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, coming last." A delightful reception followed.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(Foreign Correspondence of the Army and Navy Journal.)

## WHOSE IS THE BALTIC?

RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

"I HAVE opened a door into Europe; shut it who can!"

So spoke Peter the Great, in days when Russia's last really formidable enemy seemed to have perished in the fall of Sweden. But time has passed, and a greater than Sweden is here. The door which the founder of Russia opened into Europe is being closed again, more securely than ever, by means which even his eye was not keen enough to foresee. The two "coming races" which are now eyeing each other across the Niemen are destined to intercine warfare by the very laws of their being; but the *causa terrena* popularly assigned them is erroneous. The seed of the future war lies not in Germany's attempting to wrest the Baltic provinces from Russia, but in Russia's being driven, in her own despite, to assert the freedom of the Baltic Sea against Germany.

When the great reformer uttered the words above quoted, it is probable that he had not the slightest apprehension of danger from a quiet little Electorate beyond the Vistula, which had inflated itself into a kingdom nine years before, amid the laughter of all Europe. But it is hard to measure the possible growth of a State in modern times. The mango trick of the Indian juggler, who produces within an hour the bud, the flower, and the fruit from a seemingly hopeless soil, is realised in the history of Prussia. We have the bud in the transformation of the Elector of Brandenburg into King Frederick in 1700; we have the flower in the Treaty of Hubertsburg in 1763, Europe's tacit admission that she had failed to stifle in embryo the yet unborn German Empire; we have the fruit in the great victory of 1866. And now, with Alsace-Lorraine added to the triumphs of the modern Themistocles, and Prussia established as the arbiter of Europe, who can say "whereunto this may grow?"

When the Russian fleet was menacing Stralsund and blockading Kolberg, in 1760-62, Prussia had no navy; and she would have been prevented from acquiring one (even had no other hindrance existed), by the necessity of expending the bulk of her then scanty revenue upon the maintenance of a formidable army. All this is altered now. To suit her changed circumstances, Germany must have a navy; to float that navy, she must have a sea; and that sea must be the Baltic. Here her aims come at once into direct collision with those of Russia. It was to reach the Baltic that Peter the Great endured countless defeats, and sent 100,000 workmen to perish in the swamps of the Neva; and Russia's subsequent policy has tended undeviatingly in the same direction. The annexation of Estonia gave her the Gulf of Finland; the annexation of Finland gave her the Gulf of Bothnia; the annexation of Courland and Livonia virtually gave her the Baltic. And now, having burst all these barriers, she suddenly finds all her efforts rendered void by an outer wall of circumvallation, manned by the keepers of Alsen, Kiel, and Wilhelmshafen.

One glance at the map, however, will suffice to show that these constant obstructions, vexatious as they are, are merely the natural consequence of Russia's unique geographical position. As the scarcely visible seal of Solomon had power to imprison the colossal Djinn, so a few miles of landlocked sea suffice to tether the might of Russia. With the Sound on one side and the Bosphorus on the other, the masters of half Asia and two-thirds of Europe are virtually under arrest in their own dominions. From this bondage they must break, cost what it may. But how?

To those who still put faith in the venerable fiction of Russia's overwhelming strength (forgetting, as too many do, that a big empire is not necessarily a great one), such barriers as these would doubtless appear anything but insurmountable. Turkey, indeed, is no longer the Turkey of Suleiman the Magnificent; and it is probable enough that Russia, if left to herself, would not be long of acquiring a latch-key to the "Gates of Propontis," despite the batteries which stud the green slopes of the Bosphorus, and the stately three-deckers whose thunder proclaims to the Believers of Stamboul, every Friday morning, that the Commander of the Faithful is on his way to the mosque. But with Germany the case is widely different. In the secret "Treaty of Warsaw," concluded between Saxony, Austria, and Russia previous to the Seven Years' War, there is a prophecy which has been portentously fulfilled: "If the growth of Prussia be not checked, her central position and ever-increasing resources will enable her to give us incalculable trouble." In fact, it needs little consideration to perceive that, by virtue of the "position" referred to, Germany possesses capabilities of inflicting damage upon Russia such as no other power has ever had. Poland, in the palmy days before 1847,\* blockaded Russia by land. Britain, during the Crimean war, blockaded her by sea. But Germany, in her present form, unites the offensive powers of Britain to those of Poland. During the sorest pressure of 1854-5, while Napier's squadron was lying almost within sight of St. Petersburg, the imports which Russia needed still flowed into her from the German frontier—at raised prices, it is true, but still in sufficient abundance. But in the event of a rupture with Germany, she would find herself blockaded both by sea and by land, and be driven to strike the first blow, however unprepared for it, also in sheer self-defence.

How far such result has been foreseen and led up to by that remorseless diplomacy which thrives by

hurrying unprovided nations into a hopeless contest, and then

"Invoque le Seigneur en égorgeant ses frères."

this is no place to inquire; but it is worth while to examine the chances of the Baltic's rival suitors in a struggle for her favor. At the first glance, it is evident how completely the balance is on the side of Germany. The great German ports of the Baltic—Lübeck, Rostock, Stettin, Dantzig, Königsberg—are so placed as to defy any attempt at a regular bombardment, a fact sufficiently proved by the experience of 1870. With Russia it is far otherwise. Cronstadt, indeed, with two huge forts, added to the four that faced Sir Charles Napier, and a strong battery on the extremity of the North Spit—with 700 guns mounted on her various defences, 300 of which command the main channel—may fairly count herself secure; but it would be hard to find another Russian port which could do the same. Abo has no defence save the grinning reefs that break the clear smooth water of her roadstead. Revel and Riga lie open to the first assailant. Helsingfors is still as unprotected, as when the English burned her dockyards in 1854. Viborg is guarded only by the shadow of her grand old castle, which would topple into ruin at the first cannon-shot. A single frigate might make a clean sweep of the Gulf of Bothnia. So far as their respective coasts are concerned, the grapple of the two powers would be the fight of the half-naked Gaul against the fully-armed legionary.

## THE RIVAL FLEETS OF RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

And when we turn from this question to that of the rival fleets themselves, the disparity becomes still more glaring. The statistics of the German navy are by this time too well known to need repetition; let us see how the account stands on the side of Russia. The official reports of the admiralty triumphantly announce the launching of 24 new iron-clads within the last 8 years, and give a total of 36 iron-clads, vessels formidable enough to strike terror into the heart of Mr. Reed himself. But what is the real condition of these famous bugbears? Briefly this: The renowned *Peter the Great* is a mere pontoon, without guns, engines, or armor, which, on being launched, instantly began to fill with water, and was only saved by constant pumping from going down altogether. The engines intended for her are of cast iron, made in one piece, in every way similar to those which succeeded so admirably in the trial trip of the *Devastation*, and calculated (to give Russian workmanship its due), to fly in pieces quite as suddenly and effectually. Of the 36 iron-clads above mentioned, at least half a dozen are still building, and will take fully two years, if not three, to complete; while even those already finished are rendered utterly unsafe by the prevalent fashion of making them too light below the water-line, in order to attain the maximum of speed. The engines designed for the *General Admiral* (a "complete" iron-clad requiring three years to finish), would suffice, with their cylinder of 130 inches in diameter, to tear such a vessel as the *General Admiral* to pieces. The monster guns cast at Petrozavodsk, the rumor of which startled England two years ago, burst within a few months of their casting; and the emigration now going on in Finland is fast depriving Russia of her best—we might almost say her only—seamen. The *Lazareff* and *Spiridonoff*, about which so much was said in 1871, ran into and sank each other on their trial trip. The redoubtable circular iron-clad *Popoffki*, or floating batteries, to which Admiral Popoff has stood godfather, and which recently filled the post of scarecrow, etc. the *Peter the Great* invalided, are now, in their turn, discovered to be inefficient. All attempts of the Russian firms to rifle their own cannon have failed utterly, and half-rifled guns may still be seen in the Government works, standing just as they were left, twenty months ago, by an English expert from Woolwich, who returned home in disgust at the conditions which the native authorities attempted to impose upon him. The *Peter the Great*, if ever completed at all, will draw 28 feet of water, and is thus rendered physically incapable of navigating the Gulf of Finland. In short, had Alice's rambles through wonderland extended to the admiralty at St. Petersburg, her impressions of it would probably have run as follows:

"Sing a song of ex-pense,  
A pocket running dry,  
Four and twenty iron-clads  
Going all awry;

When the dock was opened,  
The ships began to jar—  
Wasn't that a pretty tale,  
To lay before the Czar?"

But it is to be remarked that the coming of a war will not merely find Russia unprepared; it will actually prevent her becoming so. It is not too much to assert, that not one of the essentials for the formation of a navy is to be found in Russia proper. She draws her iron from Great Britain, her guns from Prussia, her ship-carpenters and plate-layers from Sweden, Holland, or England, and her seamen from Finland and the Baltic provinces. The repeated efforts made to construct the armor plating of the *Peter the Great* in Russia have failed utterly, and the Government has been forced to hand over the undertaking *in toto* to a well-known English firm. In the event of a war then, where would her navy be?

These, it will be said, are the assertions of a foreigner; but let us take the evidence of the Russians themselves. "The Baltic," says the *Moscow News* (M. Katkov's organ) in a recent article upon this subject, "the Baltic is being usurped by Germany, and we are on the point of being besieged in our own waters. One generation ago, who would have anticipated a time when the permission of Germany would be required in order to get a single cargo of hemp or timber out of the Baltic? Yet such a time is fast approaching." The semi-official *Golos* (Voice), the most plain-spoken of all the St. Petersburg journals, holds similar language: "The war of 1854-5, which tried so severely the qualities of our land forces, cannot be said to have tested those of our navy, inasmuch as it never gave itself a

chance of being tested. On the first appearance of the Allied fleet in the Baltic, it hastened to shelter itself behind the guns of Cronstadt, whence it never emerged till the close of the war; and should another war break out at present, there can be little doubt that it would act in precisely the same manner. We have not at this moment a single vessel capable of coping on equal terms with those of Great Britain. Now, if the only use of a fleet be to shrink out of harm's way at the first approach of danger, where is the good of maintaining one at all? We expend millions of roubles annually upon this one department in time of peace, and when war breaks out it is found to be utterly useless." To this may be added the testimony of a veteran naval officer, whom I met in Finland some time ago: "We are teaching our men gymnastics, and reefing, and splicing, and going aloft, and target practice with ship guns, though they don't make much of it. But, after all, what's the use? The people who keep crying out at our slowness, seem to forget that something more is needed to form a navy besides building ships and putting men into them. We have to make not only our ships, but our sailors. If you watch them, you will notice that the English or American seaman does his work as if it came natural to him, the Russian as if he were repeating a lesson. We are an inland people, and nine-tenths of our population have never even seen the sea; remember that. What do you think a man asked me the other day? whether 'the Baltic is *really* bigger than Lake Ladoga?' What fare we to do with fellows like that?"

## THE RUSSIANS AS SAILORS.

All this is plain speaking; but not a whit plainer than the occasion warrants. The task to which Peter the Great devoted half his life is still unaccomplished. Indeed, the three great victories of the Russian navy are the strongest proofs of its inferiority. *Tchesme*\* was not a battle at all; it was simply the burning of the whole Turkish fleet by a single fire-ship, handled by two English officers. At Navarino the French and English fleets bore the burden and heat of the day; and the triumph of Sinope was the triumph of a grown man over a child. In a word, the present condition of the Russian navy is exactly defined by the terse sarcasm of an English engineer of my acquaintance, who, on my remarking that "Russia has plenty of seamen," answered quietly, "You mean plenty of men at sea."

With regard to Russia's unpreparedness for taking the offensive, the tone assumed by her own military critics is sufficient proof of itself. In all the schemes of defence recently propounded, she is never spoken of as making, but always as awaiting, the attack. "What we ought to have done in the last war," says the *Golos*, "had the state of our fleet permitted it, is just what we must do now. Cronstadt must no longer be the sole point on our Baltic coast where our ships can be sheltered, refitted, or remanned. We must establish another great naval station at Kelaingfors, and place there a squadron of monitors and light gun-boats, which will serve the double purpose of guarding Viborg and the minor forts, and of threatening the flank of an attack directed against Cronstadt, so as to place the assailants between two fires. For this purpose the extreme shallowness and uncertain soundings of the Gulf of Finland offer every facility."

## RUSSIA AS A MILITARY POWER.

Precisely the same thing (despite the fanfaronades of the "patriotic" party) may be said of Russia's position by land, which, though not strictly belonging to the present subject, is worth glancing at in passing. At the first glance, it would seem as if the counter-move to Prince Bismarck's terrible gambit had been devised with rare skill; but a closer inspection shows that every detail of the programme implies defence and nothing but defence. Every loophole of approach is barred as jealously as the doors of the Maus-Thurm by the conscience-stricken Bishop. The fortified camp of Czestochow stands like a policeman at the door of Austria. Brest-Litovsk, laid like a suicide "where four roads meets," bars the highways to Vilna, Warsaw, Smolensk, and Kiev. Warsaw herself supported by her stout grandsons, Modlin and Ivangorod, stands in the midst of the Polish Quadrilateral, bestriding the passage of the Weichsel and the junction of the Western railways; while Kiev, with her powerful arsenal in embryo, and her rising citadel on the Lysaya Gora, stands sentry over any hostile movement that may be made by Bismarck-ridden Austria. In the face of such preparations it is impossible not to recall the bluff sarcasm of the old English traveller on seeing a great continental fortress: "The man must have been sore afraid who set that in front of him!" Modlin alone—the most formidable and least known fortress in Europe, which no map is permitted to mark, and no civilian to approach, and which, when finished, will be capable of holding 80,000 men—is a sufficient gauge of Russia's estimate of the peril which demands such precautions. Her apprehensions, however, are certainly not groundless; for to the Administration which transported, victualled, and supplied the armies that won Sedan and took Paris, the landing of a strong force on the unguarded coast of Courland or Levenia, in the rear of all these formidable defences, would be no insurmountable task. With the Baltic once in the hands of Germany, Russia is already more than half vanquished. By it she must stand or fall.

Passing over the question of the possible attitude of the Germans now in the service of Russia, in the event of a rupture between the two countries—a question which has lately acquired a new significance by the removal of all German officials from the frontier railways, and their replacement by native Russians—it may be well to cast a glance at the state of the Russian army itself. In the autumn of 1871, the total military strength of the Empire, as borne on the lists of its Administration, was 1,173,879, distributed as follows:

\* Fought in 1770, during the first Turkish war of Catherine II.

\* This, and not Jan Sobieski's death, is the real turning-point of Polish history. Poland never recovered the revolt of the Ukraine under Bogdan Chmelnitski, and the coalition to which it led.

European Russia, 873,467; Caucasus, 163,759; Orenburg district, 6,288; Turkestan, 22,294; Western Siberia, 11,044; Eastern Siberia, 14,810; reserve, 82,217. It might have been thought (had they but a few officers worthy of the name) that such a mass of brave and obedient soldiers, proverbial for a solid endurance, and a tough bulldog hardihood, akin to our own, would have sufficiently guaranteed the safety of the country. Such, however, was not the opinion of the Russian Government. On the 19th October, 1871, the *Moscow News* published the details of a new military system, augmenting the existing force 50 per cent., so as to leave a disposable force of 958,743 men for the defence of European Russia, and bring the entire number of men under arms, in the event of a war, to the enormous total of 50,954 officers and 1,653,393 rank and file, including 280 squadrons of cavalry and 2,574 guns. According to the provisions of this system, the army of the Caucasus is to consist of 167,000 men; and the armies of occupation in the other outlying dependencies are to be similarly augmented. The Cossacks of the Don are to furnish, out of an able-bodied population of 1,400,000, a contingent of irregular cavalry 64,000 strong, with 116 pieces of cannon. The "peace establishment" is to consist of 30,504 officers and 739,000 rank and file; and the troops are then to be divided into troops of the line and local forces. But, in the event of a European war, several *corps de reserve* are to be added; and, in case of extreme need, the "Narodnoe Opolchenie," or national *levée en masse*, is to be called out.

And now, it would seem, even these efforts are found to be insufficient, and yet greater schemes of national defence are under discussion. But the statistics of these, as well as the admirable measures of reorganization advocated by M. Komaroff in the columns of the *Russki Mir* (Russian World) are too wide a field to be dealt with in the limits of the present paper.

#### CONDITION OF THE RUSSIAN FINANCES.

Lastly, one word as to finance. In an age when Fortune, reversing the act of Brennus, flings gold into the scale to counterpoise the sword, there can be no fair comparison between Prussia, renowned even a century ago as the European State without a national debt, and now doubly enriched by prosperity at home and spoliation abroad—and Russia, long since drained of her specie, and subsisting for years past on successive foreign loans,\* drawn in some cases from Germany herself. "Dans la guerre," said Louis Quatorze, unwittingly pronouncing his own doom, "c'est l' dernier feu qui gagne," and Russia is already learning to her cost that the lack of the "sinews of war" is but ill supplied by her 80,000,000 subjects, and her miscellaneous collection of native and foreign deserts.

"Mancipis locupletis, eget aeris Cappadocum rex."

On the whole, I should be inclined to say (speaking from long personal experience) that the "German problem" lies far heavier on the mind of Russia than is usually supposed. Her critics are not, as a rule, very deeply read in classic story; but to those of them who hold that history repeats itself, one episode of the old time may be worth remembering at present. More than two thousand years ago, a little Greek canton, one half the size of Sussex, rose to sudden greatness under an able and ambitious Premier. She defeated a powerful foreign enemy who had declared war against her, and, enriched with the latter's spoils, welded together numerous small nationalities of her own race and language, consecrated herself as the "Athenian Empire," piously acknowledging how fully the wisdom of Heaven was exemplified in the unbroken success of Athens. Does the history of the present generation afford any parallel case? Perhaps so; but where are we to look for the Sparta that shall head the new Peloponnesian war against these devout exterminators, whose motto would seem to be "Dieu et non droit?" Russia, indeed, has much of the dogged courage, the rude simplicity, the stoical endurance, which characterised the "warrior nation," but whereas the Lacedaemonians were soldiers of the first order, the "military empire" of our day has more fighting men and fewer soldiers than any power in Europe. The destruction of the Persian capital, the annexation of Ionia, the "contributions" levied upon the Carians, have all found their parallel in the events of 1870-1. But the coalition which shall overthrow the labors of the German Themistocles is still in the future. Will that coalition be formed by the alliance of the Romish Church with the growing spirit of Republicanism—old foes united by the bond of a common peril? Who shall say?

K.  
LONDON, Jan. 10, 1877.

#### THE CUSTER CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: The position taken by the JOURNAL in its review of the "Life of Custer" was sound and conservative, pending an official investigation into the conduct of the battle of the Little Big Horn, wisely declining to discuss its merits at present, or go behind the official reports. Such was also the position taken by myself in the communication which you honored me by inserting, two weeks after the review. I had said my say in the book, and was willing to stand or fall thereby. Colonel Benteen seems disposed to reopen the case in another manner, and bring into the controversy matters entirely extraneous, which require a reply, in the name of justice towards a gallant officer, now in his grave and unable to defend himself. This is General Custer, late of the 7th Cavalry, a brother officer of Colonel Benteen, and of the same regiment. In considering the letter of Colonel Benteen, I divide its matter into the three paragraphs in which it appeared, and shall consider them separately, and I hope with temperance and justice.

\* During a seven years' stay in Russia, I have never seen a silver rouble actually in circulation.

I. The first of these paragraphs asserts that had Custer won the battle of June 25, 1876, it would have been "his first Indian victory," and Colonel Benteen proceeds to say, "The battle of the Washita is comprised in this grand total;" "I say here that Colonel Reno and I thought, during the siege of June 25th and 26th at the Little Big Horn, that he, Reno, was the abandoned party, and spoke of it as 'another Major Elliott affair,' thinking that Custer had retreated to the mouth of the river, where the steamboat was supposed to be, and that Reno's command was left to its fate." There can be no question, I think, that Colonel Benteen wishes to convey in these words the idea that General Custer unnecessarily abandoned Major Elliott to his fate, and further that the Indians defeated Custer in the battle of the Washita. Colonel Benteen closes this paragraph with the expression of a belief that his conduct is endorsed by his "military superiors and comrades," but I hardly think he can claim a like endorsement for his opinions on the conduct of Custer at the Washita. The terms of General Field Orders No. 6, Nov. 29, 1868, Hdqrs. Dept. of Missouri, in which General Sheridan alludes to that battle as a "defeat of a large force of Cheyenne Indians," a "signal success," and offers "special congratulations" to Custer, for "efficient and gallant services rendered," forbid such a presumption. The historical results of Custer's famous campaign of 1868-9, recorded in the files of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL at the time; the pacification or conquest by him of the Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Kiowas, in seven months from the time he took the field; the famous request, signed by Sherman, Sheridan, Sully, and the officers of the 7th Cavalry, which recalled Custer from suspension to immediate command; these and many other facts, familiar to the Army and the world, are Custer's best defence against the assertions of Colonel Benteen's letter, which should have been made, if made at all, in 1868, while facts and witnesses were there to confront them. Whether Colonel Benteen's conduct of June 25, 1876, will bear the same tests as those applied to Custer's in 1868, time will show.

II. I pass to the second paragraph of the Colonel's letter, in which he pays his respects to me in person, only to correct a false impression which it may leave among Army officers. In no letter to Colonel Benteen have I ever acknowledged the source of my information to be such as he can possibly show to be questionable. He wrote to me first a short note, stating that he had seen a review of my book in the *Herald*, and that he proposed to send me his version of the battle, to show wherein he thought I misrepresented him. In answering his note I admitted the difficulty of procuring any direct information, and expressed the earnest hope that he might be able to adduce some facts that would compel me to alter my opinion of his conduct at that fatal battle. A few days later, I received the promised "version" from Colonel Benteen, which was a mere amplification of the letter in last week's JOURNAL. Of the matters contained in both letters, personal to myself, I naturally take but small account, not having written the book in the hope of winning Colonel Benteen's good opinion, nor in fact expecting it.

III. For the officers mentioned as having organized the "Society for Mutual Admiration," I fancy they will be able to survive Colonel Benteen's delicate allusion, as well as to appreciate his esteem for his brother officers. His allusion is too indefinite for serious answer. The witticism at least shows an appreciative memory of Oliver Wendell Holmes, which will please that venerable humorist at having been able to furnish one more gentleman with sarcasm to order. Further, it is consoling to know where the "first-class men" of the 7th Cavalry are to be found, and who compose the second-class, and so on downwards. Colonel Benteen has supplied the true touchstone, which has the grand merit of simplicity; i. e., whether they agree with Benteen's estimate of his late commanding officer or not.

Very respectfully, FREDERICK WHITTAKER.  
MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Jan. 20, 1877.

#### THE MORALS OF THE COLORED TROOPS.

##### CHAPLAIN MULLINS' REPORT.

FORT DAVIS, TEX., Jan. 1, 1877.

Adjutant-General, U. S. Army:

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report for the last month on "morals and general history" of the command at this post.

The peaceful industry and excellent order, which we may claim to be characteristic of our garrison, have prevailed among the enlisted men. There is no such thing as utter drunkenness; and the small quantity of ardent spirits consumed could not be pronounced a serious evil, were it not frontier and Texan whiskey. It would perhaps be a good moral and sanitary measure to compel the post trader to keep only the purest and most costly liquors for sale, and mete them out in very small quantities. The officer and soldier should be restrained by an iron hand from ever visiting the low dram shops and gambling dens that surround a military post. Our men gamble little, do not steal, and are not at all given to quarreling and fighting among themselves. Morally considered, they have certainly made slow but constant improvement during the year just ended. Viewed as soldiers they do, for the most part, present the appearance of being as thoroughly drilled and disciplined as the circumstances will permit. With the frequent scouting excursions, guarding the mail stations, building, and repairing the adobe houses, escorting trains, etc., our men have really had to learn "arts military," under trying difficulties. However, such as they are, the most ambitious officers might well be proud of the command. It is a fact deserving honorable mention that at the beginning of last month, of the whole number of enlisted men (395) in the 25th regiment only three were under arrest or in confinement. It is also due to state that Co. H, 10th

Cavalry, now numbering seventy men, have conducted themselves admirably during the last two months, and are included in my words of praise.

The ambition to be all that soldiers should be, is not confined to a few of these sons of an unfortunate race. They are possessed of the notion that the colored people of the whole country are more or less affected by their conduct in the Army.

The Chaplain is sometimes touched by evidences of their manly anxiety to be well thought of at Army Headquarters and throughout the States. This is the bottom secret of their patient toil, and surprising progress in the effort to get at least an elementary education. Their interest in school is unabated, and upon public Divine services the attendance is large. In my vaguely defined mission as chaplain, often a very trying one, I would gratefully report that I have had from the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, and some other officers very strong moral support. We have been blessed with good health. There have been but few cases of sickness during the month, and only one death. The weather this winter has been thus far severely cold. Inasmuch as it must be subversive of good morals and gentle speech to have to live in quarters and barracks, without fire enough to keep from shivering with cold, we should undoubtedly be allowed more wood. Because in the South, it does not follow that we are in a hot climate. Our mail line demands some attention. Whether we may get our mail with any promptness and certainty or not, has become vexingly problematic. Whether papers, packages, and registered letters shall come, or go in safety, seems to depend altogether upon the very capricious humor of Texas postmasters and mail carriers.

Very respectfully, etc., GEO. G. MULLINS,  
Chaplain 25th Infantry.

THE Merchant's Gargling Oil Co. hang out their sign like an old fashioned hostelry—"accommodations for man or beast." Though beasts are never men, all men are beasts, in a physiological sense, and hence it is sound reasoning to suppose that what will cure the flesh of one will heal that of the other. This the Gargling Oil shows to be practically true, for it undertakes to cure not only rheumatism and boils in men, but ring-bone in horses, garget in cows, foot rot in sheep, creup in poultry, as well as the numerous ills—the result of disease or accident—which are common to both man and beast, quadrupeds, and bipeds, feathered or unfeathered. The Gargling Oil is a liniment which has stood the test of a trial for forty years.

THE Cambridge (Mass.) Museum of Comparative Zoology publishes a memoir, by Mr. J. A. Allen, on the American Bison, in which he controverts the commonly accepted statement that the buffalo formerly ranged eastward to the Atlantic. Its range previous to the present century seems, however, very extensive, extending from the Great Slave Lake on the north to the Mexican States of Coahuila and Tamaulipas, and from Oregon to Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas. By about 1825 it had been driven west of the Mississippi, and is doomed to speedy extinction, being already confined to the ten regions of Texas, Colorado, Kansas and the Indian Territory on the south, and Montana and the Athabasca, Lesser Slave Lake and Saskatchewan districts of Canada.

MESSRS. I. H. SMITH'S SONS inform their friends by circular, that they have been entrusted with the agency of Messrs. Alexander Webber and Co., of London, Jerez de la Frontera, and Oporto, for the sale of their sheries and ports. Messrs. Alexander Webber and Co. have been long and very favorably known for the superior quality of their shipments and for reliability in their mercantile transactions. We are happy to see another addition to the importations of a higher class of wines, which has been encouraged by the change to the present specific tariff. There is a good prospect that our people will be educated to the appreciation of fine wines, which are now within their reach, and the sale and purchase of which must give equal satisfaction.—*Bonfond's Wine and Liquor Circular*.

AT St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, Sunday, January 21, just as the half-past ten o'clock service was about to commence, an elderly gentleman was observed to be apparently ill. On hastening to him, he was found to have expired. It proved to be Captain Thos. M. Deane, Ordnance Storekeeper, U. S. Army, an officer about 67 years of age, who has been for the past two years on sick leave granted by the War Department, and who resided at No. 242 Steuben Street Brooklyn. Captain Deane was an old and faithful servitor of the Government, and was well known and respected in Brooklyn and elsewhere. He was last stationed at Watervliet Arsenal, West Troy, N. Y. His funeral took place last Wednesday morning.

THE *Journal of the American Society of Civil Engineers* (New York), contains some important papers by Army Engineers, and General G. K. Warren discusses Levees in the September number; General J. G. Barnard and Captain C. W. Howell the Improvement of the Mississippi River, in the August number, and Lieutenant C. B. Sears the Principles of Tidal Harbor Improvement, as applied at Wilmington, Delaware, in the December number. Professor Thurston continues his studies on the strength of materials, the new Portage bridge is described by G. S. Morrison, the Verrugas bridge by L. L. Buck. The Rail Committee and Committee on the Worcester Dam have reports. But the subject most thoroughly discussed is that of Hydraulics, of which both the theoretical aspects and practical examples are presented by several members.

## THE NATIONAL GUARD.

"ANCIENT AND HONORABLES," VI.

THE NATIONAL LANCERS OF BOSTON.

COMPANY A, 1st Battalion Cavalry, 2d Brigade, M. V. M., is the oldest cavalry company in Massachusetts. It was organized November 1, 1836, at the suggestion of Governor Edward Everett, and numbered sixty-four original members, under the following officers, who were elected that date: Thomas Davis, captain; Lewis Dennis, Peter Dunbar, Lewis Monroe and Erastus Coleman, lieutenants. Attached to the 2d regiment, 3d Brigade, 1st Division, M. V. M., April 13, 1837. They were ordered out and assisted to disperse rioters at the Broad street riot in Boston June 14, 1837. Made their first parade with fifty-eight men in full uniform, mounted and with lances, June 14, 1837, and same day had their first dinner at Concert Hall, at which Governor Everett and other distinguished men were present. Escorted Governor Everett and staff to Commencement at Harvard University August 30, 1837, on which occasion he presented the company with a splendid banner costing \$1,000. September 22, 1837, escorted Governor to Salem, and were received by Col. Oliver's regiment of Light Infantry and Riflemen. October 30, 1837, did escort and guard duty for delegation of western Indians who were visiting Boston. Capt. Peter Dunbar was elected July 30, 1839, and on April 20, 1841, took part in funeral honors to President Harrison. Jan. 20, 1842, under orders from Mayor Chapman, of Boston, dispersed rioters in Bowdoin Square, who had attacked a church where the Rev. Mr. Knapp was preaching. Capt. Joseph Smith was elected April 29, 1843, and they escorted President John Tyler on his visit to Boston June 16, and also at the celebration of completion of the Bunker Hill Monument June 17, 1843. Capt. Ezra Forristall was elected March 26, 1845, and the company adopted the present uniform (red coat and blue pants) in that year. Took part in the funeral procession in honor of President Jackson July 9, 1845. On the departure of the 1st regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, Col. Caleb Cushing, for Mexico February 22, 1847, the company presented them with their national flag. Escorted President J. K. Polk on his visit to Boston June 27, 1847, and received and escorted remains of President J. Q. Adams March 10, 1848. Captain Albert Guild was elected March 21, 1848. Took part in reception of the 1st regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, Col. J. H. Wright, on its return from the Mexican war July 22, 1848. Took part in escort to city government of Boston October 25, 1848, when Cochituate water was introduced into the city. Capt. Wm. F. White was elected March 23, 1849, and Capt. Thomas J. Pierce was elected May 13, 1850. July 11, 1850, took part in reception given to the 7th regiment N. Y. N. G. on their visit to Boston. August 15, took part in funeral procession in honor of President Taylor. On the 7th of October, 1850, they visited New York city with ninety-three men and remained four days; they were received by the National Guard Troop, and entertained during their stay by the 7th regiment National Guard Troop, and Washington Grey Troop, of New York, and the Washington Horse Guard and Ringgold Guards, of Brooklyn. On the 12th of May, 1851, a delegation of Lancers went to New York and presented the 7th regiment with a standard, and each company of the same with a marker's lance. President Fillmore arrived in Boston September 17, 1851, and the company received and escorted him to his quarters. On the occasion of the great railway celebration in Boston September 19, 1851, they performed escort duty for the city government. Capt. Jonas C. Gipson was elected March 19, 1852. Escorted Governor Kossuth on arrival in Boston April 27. Escorted Daniel Webster July 9 on his arrival in Boston. Received and entertained 5th Co., of 7th regiment, N. Y. N. G., July 13 to 16. Escorted regiment of Marine Artillery on its departure from Boston August 28, and took part in funeral ceremonies in honor of Daniel Webster November 30, 1852. Capt. Seth Wilmuth was elected November 14, 1853, and on the rendition of Anthony Burns June 2, 1854, they were on duty to keep the peace. Capt. Chas. A. Kimball was elected November 15, 1854, and September 17 they took part in the celebration on the occasion of the inauguration of the "Franklin Statue," in front of the City Hall. Captain Axel Dearborn was elected December 31, 1856. Took part in the inauguration of the "Warren Statue" at Bunker Hill, and received and entertained the 7th regiment N. Y. N. G. on their visit to Boston June 17, 1857. Capt. M. C. Kenney elected November 24, 1857, and he was the only commander who died while in office. Capt. John H. Fellows was elected February 7, 1860. On the visit of the Prince of Wales to Boston October 17, 1860, they performed escort duty and also acted as body guard during his stay October 18, 19, and 20. On the 13th of November they escorted the Governor to Cambridge, where the Museum of Comparative Zoology was dedicated. Captain Lucius Slade was elected March 26, 1861. The Lancers raised three companies of cavalry for three years, two companies were in the 1st regiment Massachusetts Cavalry and one company was in the 2d regiment Massachusetts Cavalry. Escorted the 1st regiment Massachusetts Cavalry on departure to the war December 19, 1861. Received and escorted Gen. Corcoran on his visit to Boston August 29, 1862. Escorted Gen. N. P. Banks and the 41st regiment Massachusetts on departure to the war November 5, 1862. Received and escorted California company of cavalry on arrival in Boston January 14, 1863. Received and escorted the 11th Battery Light Artillery May 28 and the 5th regiment Infantry June 26, 1863, on their return home from the war. At the draft riot in Boston July 14 the company was ordered out and did duty for nine days and nights, and had 125 men in service all the time. Received and entertained Co. D, 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, on their return home on a re-enlisted furlough January 23, 1864. Entertained the Ellsworth Zouaves on their visit to Boston February, 1864. Escorted Independent Battalion Massachusetts Cavalry on their return home on a re-enlisted furlough. Received and entertained the 1st regiment Massachusetts Cavalry on its return home October 31, 1864, and took particular charge of the two Lancers' companies (C and D). Took part as escort to city government of Charlestown at the celebration of the introduction of Mystic water into that city November 29, 1864. Took part in the funeral ceremonies of Hon. Edward Everett January 19, 1865. Acted as escort to city procession June 1, 1865. On the 17th of October the company, numbering 100 men and the Chelsea band of eighteen pieces, left Boston for a visit West. Arrived in Chicago October 20, and were received by the Ellsworth Zouaves and Dearborn Light Battery, and were entertained four days by the Zouaves. On the way home stopped one day in Detroit and made a parade, and were entertained by Gen. Lewis Cass and Maj. Lewis Cass, Jr. Stopped one day at Niagara Falls and made a parade, and arrived home October 28, where they were received by 100 members of the Lancers, the Prescott Light Guards and Cummings' Light Battery. Capt. A. L. Sanborn was elected January 30, 1866. Acted as escort to city government on reception of Gen. W. T. Sherman on his visit to Boston July 13, 1866. Escorted the Governor to Arlington at the inauguration of the town June 17, 1867. Escorted President Johnson June 22, and Gen. F. H. Sheridan October 7, 1867. Capt. Barney

Hull elected March 24, 1868. Did escort duty for the city of Cambridge on the reception of Hon. Anson Burlingame and the Chinese Embassy August 24, and received and entertained the company of Washington Grey Troop of N. Y. N. G. August 26, 1868. Capt. Geo. E. Richardson was elected March 15, 1870. Escorted the Governor to Cambridge, and performed escort duty for the city government of that city at the dedication of the Soldiers' Monument July 13, and escorted the Governor at the laying of the corner stone of Memorial Hall, Harvard University, October 6, 1870. Captain P. H. P. Smith was elected March 28, 1871. Performed escort duty for the city government of Boston at the laying of the corner stone of the Soldiers' Monument September 18. Escorted President Grant and city government of Boston at the laying of the corner stone of the new Boston post-office October 16, and escorted the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia on arrival in Boston December 8, 1871. Escorted President Grant to the Coliseum at the opening of the Peace Jubilee June 25, 1872. At the time of the great fire in Boston the company was ordered out and responded with 100 men, who performed patrol duty for five days from November 10 to 15, 1872. They celebrated the dedication of their present armory, No. 1 Bulfinch street, by a grand military ball December 18, 1872. On the 1st of March, 1873, the company left Boston for Washington, D. C., with 130 men and band of twenty pieces. Arrived there the 2d inst., took part at the inauguration of President U. S. Grant March 4, and arrived in New York on the way home 7th instant, and were escorted from Jersey City to the Astor House by the Old Guard, of New York. Arrived home Saturday, 8th instant, where they were welcomed by 150 members of the Lancers and the Prescott Light Guards. Captain Thomas W. Neal was elected April 8, 1873, and on the 27th of June they received and entertained the 1st Battalion of Light Artillery on their arrival home from a visit to New York. Capt. Cyrus C. Emery was elected July 23, 1874. Made an excursion to Oak Island, R. I., August 4, and were received by the Providence and Pawtucket Horse Guards. On the 19th of April, 1875, they escorted the Governor and staff at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. On the 17th of June, 1875, they performed escort duty for the legislative committee and State guests at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. On the 29th of November, 1875, they took part in the funeral procession of the Hon. Henry Wilson, Vice-President of the United States. On the 8th of May, 1876, they left Boston with 110 men and the Chelsea band of twenty pieces for Philadelphia to take part at the opening of the Centennial Exhibition. Arrived in Philadelphia 9th instant, and on the 10th, with the 1st Corps of Cadets, escorted Governor Rice, of Massachusetts, to the grounds and back to the hotel. On the 12th left Philadelphia and arrived in Boston, where they were received by 150 members of the Lancers under the command of Capt. Albert Guild—the oldest living captain of the company—the 1st Battalion of Light Artillery, the Prescott Light Guard, and the Independent Boston Fusiliers. On the 7th of June, 1876, they went through an inspection on Boston Common and were one of the three cavalry companies retained under the new law.

They have performed escort duty for the governors of Massachusetts, to Commencement, every year since their organization, except three years, when the Governor had no escort. They have had a course of dancing assemblies at their armory (to which none but their own members are admitted) every year since they were formed, and also a military ball every year to which all the notable military men of Massachusetts are invited. There are twelve of the original members and twelve post captains living. The names of 2,500 men appear on the register who have been members of the company, and they now have 575 men on the rolls, not including 200 honorable members and 112 members of the Veteran Lancers Charitable Association. The present officers of the company are: Cyrus C. Emery, captain; George S. Holt, first lieutenant, and Myron J. Horton, second lieutenant.

## NEW YORK.

TWELFTH REGIMENT.—This regiment will parade by detachment, at the State Arsenal, for instruction in the school of the battalion, as follows: Cos. A, B, F and K, on Monday evening, Jan. 29; Cos. E, G, H and I, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 30. The regiment (except band) will parade at the State Arsenal on Wednesday, Feb. 7, for battalion drill. Commissioned officers will assemble at the armory on Friday evening, February 2, at 8 o'clock, for theoretical instruction in rifle practice. The Board of Officers having resolved to drop the leather leggings from the regimental bill of dress, they will no longer be worn in this command.

TWENTY-SECOND REGIMENT.—The annual reception of Co. E, which was given at the Lexington Avenue Opera House on Monday evening, was one of the great events of the week, and a new evidence was given of the popularity of this favorite company in the fact that throughout the evening the splendid hall and reception rooms were thronged almost to overflowing in spite of the almost unprecedented array of attractions which were offered at the Academy of Music, Academy of Design, Irving Hall and elsewhere, in addition to the numerous private receptions which tempted the votaries of Terpsichore in other directions that evening.

But for its remoteness from the centre of fashion, the Lexington Avenue Opera House would be unsurpassed as a ball room, for it lends itself readily to the most elaborate effects of decoration and scenic display, and combines under one roof a fine suite of reception rooms, smoking rooms, ladies' parlors, supper room, etc., and all the requisites for an entertainment of this kind, connected directly with the grand hall.

Availing themselves of these advantages the committee in charge of the reception prepared the most tasteful and beautiful decorations for the various rooms, and the grand hall was specially remarkable for its elegant drapery and floral display, banners and festoons of color being suspended from the balconies, and the stage and galleries being adorned with large vases of flowers, wreaths, figures in glass, jets, and other decorations. Upon the stage sat Mr. Gilmore and his fine band, attired, to the surprise of everybody, in their ancient well-known uniforms of black and gold, which too plainly bear the marks of time and hard service, and were long since replaced on regimental service by the newer Austrian uniform adopted by the 22d. This unexpected reappearance of the old uniform, and the unhappy effect of its rather shabby and tarnished splendor upon the stage, was one of the topics of conversation during the evening, and excited much dissatisfaction among the members of the company and regiment who wished their distinguished guests to be particularly impressed by the brilliancy of their band. This trifling matter of their shabby appearance did not appear, however, to have a depressing effect upon the spirits of Mr. Gilmore and his tuneful band, who rose superior to mere personal vanity and played with the wonderful precision and taste which have so long made them famous among music lovers.

The ball was opened precisely at half-past ten by Colonel Porter and Lieut.-Colonel Camp and ladies, with the usual ceremonies, and immediately the splendid dancing floor

was thronged with hundreds of dancers in flashing uniforms and elegant toilettes, circling to the inspiring strains of Von Weber. From this hour until far into the morning the dancing went on without interruption, and we have rarely beheld a more brilliant scene than the opera house presented at midnight, the most crowded hour, when about 900 couples, or nearly 2,000 people were present in the great hall and the adjacent supper rooms and galleries. Among the distinguished guests were ex-Governor Tilden, who was present but a short time, Major-General Shaler and staff, Brig.-General W. C. Ward and staff, Colonel Ward and staff of the 23d (Brooklyn), Colonel Porter and staff of the 22d, ex-Captain Dunning, Quartermaster Sergt. L. C. Tapley, a deputation from the Pennsylvania 1st regiment, including the commanding officer, Colonel R. Dale Benson and staff, about thirty of the officers and members of the regiment. Besides these military guests we observed several prominent members of the bar, including three judges, two ex-mayors, and several well-known journalists and authors, and a number of officers of the U. S. Navy, wearing evening dress. President Grant, Governor Hayes and Mayor Ely sent regrets.

We cannot close this account of the reception without speaking of the admirable tact and skill displayed by the Reception Committee Mr. Harry Carey, and the House Committee Messrs. E. C. Fisher and Corporal E. L. Clapp, who were ubiquitous and untiring in their attention to guests.

TWENTY-FIFTH BRIGADE.—Lieut.-Cols. Dryer, A. A. G.; Eddy, 54th regiment; Brevet Lieut.-Col. Miller, Separate Troop of Cavalry, and Major Wheeler, judge-advocate, are detailed on a general court-martial to meet at Rochester Feb. 5; and Col. Begy, 54th regiment; Brevet Col. Erlelding and Brevet Lieut.-Col. Miller, Separate Troop Cavalry, are on an examining board to meet at brigade headquarters January 26.

TWENTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT.—Lieut.-Col. Obernier has issued an order, republishing certain extracts from the Military Code for the guidance of his command, and announces the following changes:

Appointments.—Drummer M. Schottler (G), drum-major, vice Opperman, discharged; Priv. J. M. Ander, quartermaster-sergeant (G); Priv. G. Hummel, sergeant (G); Priv. C. Heintz, corporal (G); Priv. W. Heintz, corporal (G).

SEVENTY-FIRST REGIMENT.—The annual reception of Co. K took place on the evening of Jan. 24 at the regimental armory corner Thirty-fifth street and Broadway, and passed off very successfully, there being about two hundred couples present. The principal features being the handsome decorations with appropriate mottoes, the fine music furnished by the regimental band, and the elegant entertainment furnished by the regimental caterer, M. Blotnecoff. Indeed, the excellence of the provender was a marked feature, and the veteran Delimondo must look to his laurels when pressed so closely as he was that night by a younger rival.

FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION.—Colonel Josiah Porter, 22d Inf.; Lieut.-Col. S. V. R. Cruger, 12th Inf.; Lieut.-Col. Peter Kraeger, 5th Inf., are detailed on a court-martial for the trial of officers of this brigade, below the rank of major, to convene at the armory of the 22d Inf., Fourteenth street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, on Monday evening, Feb. 12, at 8 o'clock. Major Charles A. Peabody, Jr., brigade judge-advocate, will attend the court. Gen. Ward directs regimental commanders to cause the officers of their commands to be instructed in principles of rifle practice, upon three occasions before 28th February next. Attention will be paid to parts I., II. and III. of Wingate's Manual. Regimental commanders will be held responsible for the incapability of company officers to instruct the men under them. Commandants of companies will use three drill nights, between Feb. 1 and April 30, for the instruction of their commands in rifle practice. Particular attention will be paid to aiming drill and to the positions for firing standing, kneeling and lying. Regimental inspectors of rifle practice will attend these drills, and assist the company commanders. They will also make written reports monthly to these headquarters, through their regimental commanders, of the number present at each drill and the result of the instruction. A noticeable feature of last season's practice at Creedmoor, was the ignorance of large numbers of the men as to their positions for firing, and much valuable time was necessarily consumed in instructing these men upon matters of which they should have previously gained a thorough knowledge in the drill-room, and this time would have been much abbreviated if all officers had been capable of assisting in the work of instruction.

ARTILLERISTS NOT ENTITLED TO THE MARKSMEN'S BADGE.—An application recently made to the General Inspector of Rifle Practice for marksmen's badges for Battery A, 31st Brigade, having been referred to the adjutant-general, has been denied by the latter, who has directed that marksmen's badges should be issued only to troops armed with rifles and carbines, and not opened to artillery men until they are armed with either of said weapons. This decision is important, as it will govern all applications of the above.

STATE MILITARY ASSOCIATION.—This Association begins to show unusual vitality. At its meeting, which took place at Albany January 23, a number of resolutions were offered which if carried out cannot fail to promote the best interests of the National Guard. An important resolution was offered by Col. Wingate and adopted, appointing a committee to select subjects of general interest to the National Guard for essays and discussion at the next annual meeting. This is for the purpose of making the Association of greater benefit—something beside the usual fault-finding with the Code and Legislature. Col. Bartlett offered a resolution which was also adopted, requesting each regiment, brigade and division to send at least one representative to take an active part in the next meeting. Col. Begy offered a resolution which was also adopted, reducing the initiation and the dues from \$5 to \$3. The officers are the same as last year, with one or two exceptions. Col. Underhill was dropped, and Major John Peatlie elected 5th vice-president in his place. Col. Bartlett was elected recording secretary.

General Townsend's reception was very pleasant, Governor Robinson and staff being present, and many of the Judges of the Court of Appeals.

DRAMATIC.—The Fifth Avenue Theatre is one of the best appointed "boudoirs" of art to be found in that home of the drama—New York. It is a favorite resort of the Army and Navy in their hours of ease, when "uncertain" coy and hard to please" after the first ten days of the leave of absence have passed, they settle down for the nonce into languid men-about-town, on the lookout for new sensations. And they are seldom disappointed when they drop in upon Lester Wallack in his last new role in "All for Her" (which a friend at our elbow says is a misnomer, as it should be "All for Him") or, if they would weep real tears, they try Clara Morris' "Miss Merton;" or more often, perhaps, our soldier or sailor preferring a cheerful vein, makes merry with Major Gooseberry in the play we saw the other night at Daly's—"Lemons, or Marriage for Seven." Of course

it's all a matter of taste, but to our mind there is a deal too much of the "for men must work and women must weep," in real life, to make its representation upon the stage a comfortable spectacle. The man who helps us to laugh adds to the number of our days, diminishes our doctor's bills and earns our deepest gratitude. Although we saw "Lemons" through a strong glass, and with our most critical pair of eyes, we found but one weak point in it; although of a military nature it had nothing to do with tactics, but rather with discipline.

The characters were most thoroughly personated with one exception. Major Gooseberry, "of the U. S. Army," was perfectly dressed, looked and acted by the most versatile light comedian living—the unapproachable Lewis; from the buttons of the major to the pucker of the gooseberry-like countenance, nothing was wanting. The British nobleman of Brougham was most natural. Mr. Coghlan did one lover with the aid of good looks and ripe experience—both on and off the stage we should say—while "Lemon No. —" was squeezed most artistically by a Mr. Crisp, who seemed most appropriately named. Miss Davenport skippered into the bread-and-butter miss of sixteen as readily as she adapts herself to more mature and serious parts. Mrs. Gilbert made an admirable old matchmaker, and Emily Rigl rather too fascinating a governess for every day use. The weakness of the play is in the mistake of substituting the character of a drunken recruit for an officers' "striker" or soldier servant. It would be much more pleasing and natural if the softish and disagreeable looking fellow with the slovenly looking blouse and dingy trousers, should give place to a lively Irish soldier, well set up, respectful and military even in his cups, but with the usual privileges of an old servant; not always drunk, and who can leave a room sometimes without whistling "The Girl I Left Behind Me." Mr. Daly apparently aims at perfection, and he is so near it in the casting of this play that we cannot forbear calling his attention to the only feature which detracts from the pleasure of witnessing it.

**THE OLD GUARD.**—The grand ball of this veteran company, which took place at the Academy of Music on Thursday, Jan. 18, was by far the most splendid and imposing entertainment ever given in New York by a military organization, and will be long remembered by the thousands who participated in it.

The Old Guard is made up chiefly of men of wealth and social prominence, and though it is an independent body not connected with the organized State militia, its members are nearly all graduates from the National Guard of the State, and some of them have won distinction in actual service. For this reason the Old Guard, so far from being looked upon with the coolness which independent companies usually receive from the militia, is a favorite with both military and civilians of all classes. As might be expected, therefore, the friends and admirers of the company who availed themselves of this opportunity to share in its festivities and witness its social triumph, were numbered by thousands, and the invited guests, including representatives from the militia of New York, Boston, Charleston, S. C., and elsewhere, distinguished officers of the Regular Army and Navy and of the Foreign Diplomatic Service in full uniform, together with a countless array of ladies in all the brilliancy of fall toilette, thronged the spacious dancing floor, and parterre; boxes and galleries, overflowed into the corridors and made the Academy almost inconveniently full at the most crowded hour. The decorations were simple and tasteful. The stage was made to resemble a vast marquee tent, open upon the side facing the audience. In the background and along the sides were great baskets of blooming roses, camellias and tropical plants presented by the ladies of Charleston, S. C. Above were the letters "Old Guard," 1826-1833, described in gas jets. The fronts of the proscenium boxes were decorated with shields, and arms and festoons of silk colors, while floral decorations and banners were tastefully arranged in every available corner. The ball was opened with the usual promenade and introductory ceremonies at 10:30; Major McLean and lady taking the lead. From this hour the dancing and promenade by turn went on uninterruptedly until 12, when the dancing floor was cleared and the Old Guard, forming in line, escorted its military guests twice round the room in review before the proscenium boxes, which had been assigned to General Shaler and staff, after which the dancing was resumed and continued until far into the morning.

The music for the promenade was by Grafula's 7th regiment band, while the band of the 9th regiment played for dancing. Too high praise cannot be given to the committee in charge of the ball for the skill with which they discharged their onerous duties.

#### ALABAMA.

**ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT.**—The following is interesting as showing the condition of the militia of one of the most important States of the South. It appears that at the time of Governor Houston's inauguration the militia consisted of seven companies of infantry with breech-loading rifles and two cavalry companies with breech-loading carbines, and that in addition 200 breech-loading cadet muskets had been issued to the University of Alabama and 144 to the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Auburn. Col. Macartney says:

Several companies throughout the State had been previously organized, uniformed and partially drilled, and were impatient to receive arms in order that they might perfect themselves in military tactics and discipline. The State at that time had no artillery of any kind, and the "Alabama State Artillery," a strong company, well uniformed and disciplined, were clamorous for a "battery," and in the month of April, 1875, two six pounder bronze guns, and two one-inch Gatling guns, with all the accoutrements and equipments complete, including artillery harness and sabres, were issued them. This "battery" is conceded to be as fine as any in the Southern States, and the company in drill, discipline and military appearance will compare favorably with any artillery company. At the time this first requisition was made, the State had to its credit in the Treasury of the United States at Washington, D. C., under the act of Congress entitled "An act for arming and equipping the militia," approved April 23, 1868, \$38,488.28, a sum amply sufficient to have furnished all the military supplies necessary to put the militia of this State in most excellent condition; but subsequently, on the 3d day of March, 1875, an act of Congress was passed withholding and covering into the Treasury of the United States the apportionment that had accrued to all of the Southern States during the period that they were not represented in Congress, that is to say, from January 1, 1861, to April 9, 1865. By virtue of this act, at one stroke of the pen, \$21,396.91 was deducted from the apportionment due the State of Alabama, leaving a balance of only \$17,241.37, and after deducting from this the cost of the "battery," the remainder was insufficient to supply all the companies then making requisitions for arms and equipments. In 1875, Springfield breech-loading rifles were issued to thirteen companies of infantry and to three companies of cavalry located in different sections of the State. The present strength of the armed volunteer militia is, one battery of artillery, twenty companies of infantry and five companies of cavalry. The arms in the hands of the soldiery are of the latest and best improved patterns, such as are issued and are now daily used in the Regular Army of the United States. No regular inspection has been held, but I am credibly informed that nearly all of the companies have full rolls, have neat and substantial uniforms, are well drilled and disciplined, and present a fine appearance. This department has now on hand ninety Springfield breech-loading rifles, and has to its credit in Washington, D. C., \$4,888.07. In the month of September, 1875, the companies located at Mobile, together with the company located in Baldwin county, were organized into a regiment and T. K. Irwin, of Mobile, elected colonel thereof, and this regiment was called the 1st regiment Alabama Volunteer Militia. About the same time the companies in eastern, western and middle Alabama were organized into the 2d regiment Alabama Vol. Militia, and I. A. Wilson, of Union Springs, Bullock Co., Ala., was elected its colonel. Much interest in target practice has been manifested by the militia, and the marksmanship of the companies has greatly improved; indeed, so great is the skill of some of the members, that the scores made

by them can scarcely be excelled. In the distribution of arms, my principal object has been to so locate them as to have an armed force in every section of the State, and I think that in the event of a necessity that would require their services, your Excellency will find a company of soldiers in close proximity to any point where you may desire to use them. The organization of the militia, as far as is now provided for by law, was fully completed in February last, by the appointment of a major-general and eight brigadier-generals. The total number of small arms issued by the State to the militia is 1,692, with two battery brass and two Gatling guns.

#### VIRGINIA.

**MILITARY CONVENTION.**—On the 19th Jan. a Military Convention was held at Richmond for the purpose of reviving the militia spirit in the State and to secure legislative assistance. The following bill was approved with some trifling amendments:

#### THE BILL.

1. To cause the actual enrollment in the militia of all the able bodied men of the State between the ages of eighteen and forty-five.

2. That the State be divided into military divisions, and each division sub-divided suitably for the organization of brigades, regiments and companies.

3. That the captain of each company shall have made out a list of all the militiamen in his district, and cause them to muster a given number of days in each year, or in default of attendance to pay a reasonable fine.

4. Each brigade commander to be compelled to inspect each regiment once a year, or oftener if required by the division commander.

5. All men volunteering in the uniformed companies (active militia they are now called) to be exempt from militia and jury duty—each volunteer company to be entitled to have say fifty contributing members, who shall each pay to their companies \$30 per annum, the same to be exempt from militia and jury duties like active members.

6. All fines imposed under the act to be collected as taxes and to be deposited with the city or county treasurer, as this case may be, to form the military fund and to be drawn therefrom by proper vouchers. In cities or counties where there are no volunteers to receive the benefit of the military fund, the fund is to be at the control of the Council or Board of Supervisors, and may be by them devoted to school, road, or other purposes in that county or city.

It is also proposed to petition the Legislature to elect an adjutant and inspector-general, with a fair salary, he to be charged with the organization of the militia.

#### MICHIGAN.

**MILITIA NOTES.**—The Flint Blues dedicated their new army about a week ago by what was, perhaps, one of the greatest balls ever held in this State. Captain A. D. Lawrence, of the Tecumseh Light Guard, has resigned, and is succeeded by W. C. Fitzsimmons. The militia force of this State now consists of 1,792 men rank and file. Major Fox, of the 1st regiment, who is acting as commander of the Pelouze Cadet Corps, of Detroit, is working hard to make the corps come up to its old standard of excellence. A company of cadets has been organized at Grand Rapids with the following officers: Captain, Will A. Rogers; First Lieutenant, Fred. O. Cloves; Second Lieutenant, B. Hann. Quartermaster-Sergeant Wm. E. Riddle, of the 3d regiment, and Ame P. Bentoe, of Co. A, has been appointed to fill the vacancy. It is quite probable that the "State Military Association" will fall to pieces by its own weight soon.

#### PENNSYLVANIA.

**WARRIOR.**—The politicians have declared war. A caucus of the Republican members of the Legislature was held at Harrisburg Jan. 17. The committee of three Senators and four Representatives, including the Speakers of the two Houses, who were appointed to consider the propriety of introducing a bill into the Legislature to place the militia of the State upon a war footing, finally decided that it was not expedient to offer any such bill to the Legislature at present, nor to make any specific appropriations for the purpose at this time, but simply to await the course of events and let the matter rest until the Governor in his judgment should think it necessary to call on the Legislature, by proclamation or otherwise. This was substantially the report made by the committee to the caucus. That body appeared to consist of two elements, one urging the necessity of an appropriation to place the militia on a war footing as a matter of precaution, and the other advising a temporizing policy as best calculated just now to quiet the people and obtain if possible a peaceful and legal solution of the difficulty. Finally, after a debate which lasted for about two hours, the report of the committee was adopted; but it was additionally agreed that a committee consisting of four members of the House and two members of the Senate, should be appointed, to whom the bill making the appropriation for the reorganization of the militia should be referred, and who should hold it subject to the course of events, taking no action thereon unless necessary.

#### CONNECTICUT.

**FIRST REGIMENT.**—The officer's association of this command, at their annual meeting Jan. 3d, chose the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Col. H. A. Tyler; Treasurer, Lieut.-Col. L. A. Barbour; Secretary, Lieut. L. H. Hotchkiss, Co. F; Finance Committee, Col. Tyler, Lieut.-Col. Barbour, and Major Wm. E. Cone; Music Committee, Capt. A. L. Goodrich, adjutant, and Quartermaster Bullock.

G. O. No. 1 announces the staff of Col. Tyler as follows: A. L. Goodrich, adjutant; H. C. Bullock, quartermaster; R. Joslyn, paymaster; J. N. Parker, surgeon; H. P. Atherton, assistant surgeon; J. L. Woodbridge, inspector of target practice; Johnson G. Griswold, chaplain.

**COMPANY A.** Capt. Miller, gave an exhibition drill at Union Armory, Hartford, Monday evening last. Twenty files took part in the drill which was witnessed by Col. Tyler and staff, and several line officers of the regiment. A social followed the drill.

The annual meeting of Co. F, 1st regiment (Hartford City Guard), for the choice of civil officers, resulted as follows: Executive Committee, J. L. White, L. H. Hotchkiss, G. D. Bates; Secretary, E. C. Geer; Treasurer, L. H. Hotchkiss; Collector, D. G. Camp; Uniform Committee, G. E. Lee, W. H. Morgan, F. B. Wilson. The annual reports show the company to be in a good condition; collections being made very close, and the treasury not entirely depleted, although expenditures for the Centennial year were large. The receipts during 1876 were \$5,318.14; disbursements, \$5,219.05; balance, \$99.09.

In company orders No. 1, Capt. White promulgates the following nominations of non-commissioned officers to fill vacancies: Sgt. G. Q. Whitney to be first sergeant, Corps. G. D. Bates, W. H. Robertson, J. D. Worthington and G. E. Lee to be sergeants, E. H. Rood, T. T. Welles, W. H. Morgan, A. Allen, C. D. Riley, G. H. Gleason, E. L. Morse and C. F. Leigh to be corporals. The commandant thanks the retiring non-commissioned officers for the united support given him, and their long and faithful service in the National Guard of twelve years, is worthy of emulation by the members of this command. This command has presented Gen. J. R. Hawley, who is an honorary member of the Hartford City Guard, with a handsome company badge, in return for favors and courtesies extended the company when at the Centennial encampment at Philadelphia last fall.

The following bills of interest to the National Guard have been introduced in the Legislature: Directing the quartermaster-general to provide regimental headquarter rooms; increasing the pay of members of regimental bands to \$3 per day when on duty; creating the office of bandmaster with pay and allowance of a second lieutenant (\$3.20 per day); paying an annual allowance to the Connecticut Rifle Association, providing the association shall allow the National Guard to use their range at Willowbrook for target practice. A bill providing for new uniforms is also before the military committee.

#### MASSACHUSETTS.

**GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.**—According to the report of the Adjutant-General of the Dept. of Mass., the number of posts in the department Dec. 31, 1875, was 139, with a membership of 9,395, and on Dec. 31, 1876, there were 140 posts, with a membership of 8,222 exclusive of the 21 posts who failed to make returns; 635 members had been admitted by muster, 90 by transfer, and 807 had been reinstated. The deaths the past year numbered 89; 105 had been honorably discharged; 152 had been dropped from the rolls, 80 dishonorably discharged, and 809 suspended; 16 applicants had been rejected. The total amount distributed during the year for relief was \$26,207.88; total number of soldiers and soldiers' families added, 859; soldiers not members of the order and the families of deceased soldiers aided, 760. The assistant quartermaster-general reported the total receipts of the department for the year to have been \$42,005.15; total expenditures, \$41,777.75; leaving a cash balance of \$227.40. The assets of the department were \$696.65, being an excess over liabilities of \$63.15. The report of the Medical Director, W. Symington Brown, read by the adjutant, stated that 114 posts of the order showed 1,218 members to have been wounded in battle, or about nine per cent. of the total organization.

#### VARIOUS ITEMS.

—The 8th regiment (N. Y.) will parade for review at the State Arsenal on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 8 P. M.

—On Feb. 6 and 16 the 8th regiment (N. Y.) will assemble at the State Arsenal for instant action.

—The 7th (N. Y.) regiment left wing drill takes place on Friday evening, Jan. 26, at the State Arsenal.

—At the election last week Co. E, 23d (N. Y.) regiment, chose Lieutenant Gilley, of Vilmar's staff, for their captain.

—The Albany Jackson Corps have a promenade concert and reception at Martin Hall on Tuesday evening, Jan. 30, 1877.

—JOSEPH E. LORD, of the city of New York, has been appointed Military Secretary to Governor Robinson, with the rank of colonel.

—Fine photographs of Gen. C. R. Dennis and Col. E. B. Bullock have been presented to the infantry regiment of Providence, R. I.

—The First (R. I.) Light Infantry regiment have ordered a bronze medallion cast of Lieut.-Col. E. B. Bullock. It is to be placed in the armory at Providence, R. I.

—The reports of the Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of Rhode Island will soon be before the General Assembly, and it is hoped that some of the suggestions therein contained will be acted upon by that honorable body.

—The Slocum (R. I.) Light Guards have in contemplation a fair, to be held in their armory in Providence, R. I. They are deserving of great success. The socials given by this organization have been among the finest of the season.

—Co. D, 23d N. Y. elected Captain H. M. Schmidt, president; H. Noll, vice president; Lieut. Geo. Dietrich, treasurer; Louis Leophart, recording secretary, and August Schmidt, corresponding secretary.

—Ma. E. L. Clapp has just been elected to the office of corporal by Company E, 23d regiment. Mr. Clapp is one of the tallest and best made men in the regiment, and is an enthusiastic soldier as well as a social favorite.

—The second grand concert for the benefit of the 9th regiment (N. Y.) band came off at their armory Jan. 25, and was a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment. "Major" Downing is entitled to much praise.

—The 22d (N. Y.) regiment, as already announced, will give their regimental reception and ball, preceded by a dress parade and review by Gen. Ward, at their armory in Fourteenth street, on the 31st January.

—The Drum-Major's Association held its annual meeting January 14 and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, H. D. G. Rohlf; Vice-President, J. Smith; Secretary, W. Gano; Treasurer, G. Brown; Sergeant-at-Arms, C. Berchart.

—COL. RODNEY C. WARD, 23d Brooklyn, who entered the service of the State as a private in the 7th regiment in 1857, completed his twentieth year as a guardsman January 22.

—KOLTER Post (No. 32), Department of New York, G. A. R., gives its 10th annual ball at the Germania Assembly Rooms, 291 Broadway, N. Y., on Wednesday evening, Jan. 24.

—By a typographical error in our resume of Col. Wingate's annual report on rifle practice in the JOURNAL of Jan. 20 it appeared that there had been a gain of only 3.50 per cent. in the number of riflemen qualifying in the second class as compared with that class in 1875. It should have read three hundred and fifty (350) per cent. gain.

—REPRESENTATIVE Lapham, of this State, sends to the *Yates County (N. Y.) Chronicle* the following epitaph copied *verbatim* from a tombstone in Pennsylvania: "Battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862. John D. L.—was born March 26, 1839, in the town of West Dresden, State of New York, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

—On the recommendation of the Inspector-General the Adjutant-General has disbanded the following organizations of the National Guard S. N. Y.: 2d Battalion of Infantry, Lieut.-Col. Michael Timpane, of Troy; 19th Battalion of Infantry, Lieut.-Col. Daniel Torbush, of Newburgh, and the 106th Battalion of Infantry, Col. Henry Baldwin, of Steuben county.

—BRIG.-GEN. D. D. Wylie, whose confirmation as Commissary-General and Chief of Ordnance of the State of New York we have already noticed, has been since appointed Acting Assistant Quartermaster-General, and will for the time being discharge the duties of the Q. M. G. Dept., S. N. Y.

—About thirty members of the 1st Pennsylvania militia came from Philadelphia on Monday last to attend the reception given by Company E, 23d New York, at the Lexington Avenue Opera House that evening. They returned to Philadelphia on Tuesday morning, expressing themselves much pleased with the entertainment. The 23d regiment was hospitably entertained by the 1st Pennsylvania last July during its visit in Philadelphia.

—The 23d (Brooklyn) regiment have contributed largely to the social life of Brooklyn during the winter by a series of informal receptions, in the form of promenade concerts, with dancing, at their fine armory. These reunions which have taken place once a fortnight are said to be extremely popular, and will be continued during the season.

—GILMORE's Garden has been engaged by the 7th (N. Y.) regiment for the evening of the 23d Feb., when they are to give a military and civic pageant on a grand scale. Guard mounting will be followed by a promenade concert, and a special orchestra will then play for dancing. Preparations are being made for a very large attendance. Great care is being taken to make the musical department attractive, and there will be some novelties in the way of heating and decoration.

—Why did the 23d (N. Y.) band appear at the ball on Monday in their weather-beaten old uniforms? Had they been playing for a civil reception or for the ball of a rival regiment no exception could have been taken to their dress, which was respectable enough; but at this ball, where the regiment and its friends were all in full dress, it would have seemed only proper and fair

courtesy for the band to array itself in its best apparel. Was this shabbiness the result of a misunderstanding? and how much had Captain Knapp to do with it?

PROFESSOR Eben and his mellifluous band are to be congratulated at last on the prospect of showing the public what they can do when they are untrammelled. The narrow limits and bad acoustic properties of the armory never gave them a fair chance for the display of their musical powers; but at Gilmore's Garden, where they are to perform on the 22d Feb., they may blow and saw and bang till their lungs collapse and their arms drop powerless to their sides, without fear of bringing the walls down upon their heads. Moreover the audience will be able at the Garden to recognize and comprehend the airs which are being played, which it never could at the armory, by reason of the discordant echoes.

LATIMER WHITTLE, a veteran of the late war, died in Jersey City recently. He enlisted in the 3d regiment N. Y. V., when about eighteen and was shot in the battle of Bristow Station, Va., in 1863. He was left for dead, but evidence of vitality being discovered, he was placed in an ambulance and removed to hospital. The surgeon probed his wound and found that the ball had passed through his liver and penetrated the base of his lungs. They decided that the wound was mortal, but to their surprise Whittle recovered, though the surgeon failed to find the bullet. They told him after his recovery that he might live ten or twelve years. When that time expired he thought they were mistaken, but about nine months ago the injured lung began to disappear, and about four weeks ago the decay became so rapid that he was confined to his bed and sank rapidly until he died.

#### ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL must decline to decide points between officers and the men of their commands. No attention paid to fictitious signatures, unless accompanied by real name and address of writer.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.—The Government furnishes board, clothes and text books upon the payment of \$249.77, upon passing the required examination for the Naval Academy.

A SUNSCRIBER (Philadelphia).—Paymasters in the Army are required to give bonds in \$30,000 in two sureties, who must be worth at least \$40,000. Captains and assistant quartermasters U. S. A. about the same amount. A quartermaster with the rank of major must furnish a bond of \$40,000.

CAMP BAKER says: Revised Statutes, title 15 (the Army), chapter 3, section 1294 reads: "For each ration of sugar and coffee not issued or commuted for the extract of coffee combined with milk and sugar, enlisted men shall be paid in money." I claim that under the law a soldier in a company not using these articles is entitled to be paid in money the cost price of his ration of such articles. ANSWER.—You give the law correctly, but it is evident that it is not the intention of that law that a soldier who declines to draw his daily ration of sugar and coffee should be paid its money value. It simply provides that when the Government is unable from any cause to provide these articles of the ration the soldier will be paid its value in money.

CALA.—1. The pay of an enlisted man on duty at the Leavenworth Military Prison is the same as that of any other soldier of the same grade. They may receive extra duty pay, but it is thought not. War Department, General Orders 37 of 1875, prescribes useful information on the subject. 2. The general duties of the enlisted guard at the prison are to watch over the prisoners while at work, guard them at night, see that they properly execute the labor required of them, and in general, under the direction of the commander of the prison, maintain the discipline established by the prison regulations. There are no special "privileges or benefits" attached to the position, except that the selection of men for the prison guard implies that while with their regiment they have been well behaved and meritorious soldiers. It may therefore be called a species of honorable promotion.

"R" asks: What is the examination an old soldier must pass to enter the Signal Service. ANSWER. From Circular 15, Oct. 27, 1875, Office C. S. O., we learn that: "Entrance into this service is in every case by enlistment as a private soldier, the pay, quarters, allowances and duties being, in the first instance, and unless changed after instruction, detail or promotion, as herein-after explained, those of a private soldier in the Signal Service, U. S. A. The term of service is five years. With the single exception that men enlisting for the Signal Service will not be transferred to any other branch of the Army, no promise will be given which can alter or affect the usual terms of enlistment. The Chief Signal Officer, in his annual report for 1871 to the Secretary of War, recommended that a commission in the Army be given each year to the sergeant who shall in that year be reported as most distinguished for fidelity and ability, and in each of several subsequent years an enlisted man of the Signal Service was promoted to be a commissioned officer. Married men and those under twenty-one or over forty years of age are not enlisted; standard height five feet four inches and upward. Enlistments are confined to candidates who have passed an examination prior to enlistment before a Board, which meets at Chief Signal Office every Thursday at noon. Testimonials as to good character and capacity, signed by persons known at this office, must be presented, together with an application in the handwriting of the candidate (addressed to the Chief Signal Officer of the Army), stating his age, past and present avocation and residence. The examination will be chiefly directed to accurate spelling, legible hand-writing, proficiency in arithmetic, with special attention to decimal fractions, and the geography of the United States. After a favorable report from the above-mentioned Board, and also a physical examination by the surgeon, the candidate will be enlisted for the Signal Service, and, as a rule, will be ordered for duty to Fort Whipple, Va., near Washington, where the S. S. Detachment and School of Instruction is stationed, where he will be placed under the drill and discipline requisite for the Signal Service, which will continue for not less than two months. After that time, his conduct being good and being reported as competent in drill and discipline, he will be ordered under special instruction to prepare for the duty of assistant to an observer on station; also performing the general duties of a soldier at hours when not required for instruction. When reported by the instructor as qualified, the enlisted man will, as the wants of the service require, be detailed on the above-mentioned duty of assistant. The length of time between being ordered under instruction and being detailed as assistant, varies with the capacity and conduct of the individual, but has averaged about six weeks. All soldiers of the Signal Service, who have passed the above-described examination, and have been instructed and detailed on duty as assistant, are required to perform such duties satisfactorily for twelve months before promotion from private to sergeant. The pay per month varies according to station. When at Fort Whipple, Va., or at a military post—Sergeant, \$34.44; private, \$19.62. When on station—Sergeant, \$77.25; private, \$60.43. At C. S. O.—Sergeant, \$95.06; private, \$80.89. Of the above amounts one dollar per month in the third year, two dollars per month in the fourth year, and three dollars per month in the fifth year are retained, and will not be paid until final discharge after faithful service. An allowance for clothing, averaging \$3.59 per month for sergeants and \$2.42 for privates, is also included in the above, which, if clothing is not drawn in kind, is also retained until discharge. When at Fort Whipple, both sergeants and privates receive quarters and rations, and at all places are, when ill, provided with medical attendance and medicines."

THE British iron steamer *Lotus*, of 1,152 tons burden, sailed from New Haven Jan. 23, for Constantinople direct, bearing the most valuable cargo ever taken out of that port. It is composed of rifles and ammunition for the Turkish government, as follows: Seventy thousand Martini-Henry rifles, 70,000 bayonets and scabbards, 1,000 Winchester guns, 10,000 cartridges, 15,000 Martini shells, 15,000 bullets, and 50,000 gun-wads. The Martini-Henry rifles are shipped by the Providence Tool Company, of Providence, R. I., and the balance of the cargo by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company of New Haven. The total value of the cargo is \$1,769,100.

#### FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

The time of members of both Houses has been taken up during the past week with the consideration of a new plan for counting the electoral votes; which passed the Senate Jan. 25 at 7:30 A. M., after an all night session, by a vote of 47 to 17. Although it has a few strong opponents in the House, the "Compromise Bill" will undoubtedly become a law.

#### THE SENATE.

*Bills and Petitions Introduced*—Jan. 18.—Petition of Joseph Beale, Jr., praying to be restored to the Naval Academy. (S. 1154), granting a pension to the widow of the late Colonel Fletcher Webster, U. S. V., who was killed in front of Washington, Aug. 30, 1862. He was the second son of Daniel Webster, and his only brother was killed in Mexico. (S. 1157), providing for experiments and the purchase of the best movable torpedo by the Navy Dept.

Jan. 25.—(S. 1180), to restore Samuel M. Robbins to former rank in Army.

*Passed*.—(H. R. 2461) authorizing the Treasury Department to settle with the 1st lieutenants of the 3d Artillery, for loss by fire at Fort Hamilton at a sum not to exceed \$600 each (Jan. 28).

*Adverse*—Jan. 23.—(H. R. 4258), to provide for payment for certain improvements on lands now embraced within Fort Cameron Reservation.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Bills Introduced*—Jan. 19 (H. R. 4484), to authorize the President to appoint A. P. Frick, an Assistant Surgeon U. S. A. (H. R. 4471), authorizing the settlement of the claim of the estate of the late Rear Admiral Dahlgren. Jan. 20, (H. R. 1746) for the restoration to the retired list of J. T. Leary, late U. S. A. Letter from Sec. of War transmitting report of Adjt. Gen. on bills. (H. R. 4304) to secure title to Fort Union Mil. Reservation in N. M.; also letters transmitting report of A. G. in reference to the pay of Brigadier General for office of Paymaster General. Jan. 22 (H. R. 4501), for the appointment of a professor of law at the Military Academy. (H. R. 185), authorizing the printing and binding of the catalogue of the National Medical Library under the direction of the Surgeon General. (H. R. 4530), for relief of officers of the Army on account of loss by fire at Madison Barracks, N. Y.

*Adverse Reports*—Jan. 19.—(H. R. 17) to correct the Army records and registry of Lieut. Geo. D. Hill. (H. R. 213) to fix the brevet and real rank of officers of the Regular and Volunteer Army. Petition of Dr. Geo. McCoy, A. A. Surgeon, for pension. (Referred to Pension Committee.) (H. R. 4256) for the relief of A. W. Greely, 5th Cav. (H. R. 2553) for the relief of R. P. Tryon, Surgeon, U. S. A. (H. R. 3234) to restore W. J. Montgomery, late First Asst. Engineer U. S. N., to the active list. (H. R. 2578) to require the construction of Paymaster's offices on all Naval vessels.

*Bills Passed*—Jan. 19 (S. R. 4), authorizing Captain Temple and Lieutenant Commander Whitney, U. S. N., to accept the cross of officers of the order of Kamehameha I conferred for personal services rendered during the visit of the King to Washington. After considerable opposition and some discussions, the resolution was passed by ayes 108, nays, 42.

*Postponed*—Jan. 23.—(H. R. 4389), authorizing Mixed Commission to report as to the future Naval policy of the U. S., at request of Mr. Whitthorne until Jan. 30.

#### THE CHALLENGE.

(A. H. Baldwin, in London Society Mag.)

What! fight for a worthless, vain coquette, for a heartless jilt?—not I!  
My mettle, sir, was at Worcester proved; I dread not the sneering lie  
Of a spiteful tongue, nor the jeers of those who may give me a coward's name;  
I'll make him eat his words who dares to fling in my teeth the same!

For my sword is now, as it ever was, and I trust will ever be,  
As prompt to defend its master's fame as in the days of chivalry.

I will fight for my king, I will draw my sword to uphold the cause of right;

For truth, for justice, for all who are weak, I will fight with all my might!

But because a woman looks awry, and it may be casts a glance

On other men than her chosen knight, shall I put in rest my lance

To uphold her folly and flatter her whim, and cause a brave man to die,

Unwept by the fickle cause of strife? Not I, my lord, not I!

So carry this message back to him who sent you this wild-goose chase;

That I, like himself, am of noble blood, and I think it no disgrace

To keep sword in sheath for so weak a cause as a wilful beauty's frown.

What! fight for one who loves neither of us—we two who have fought for a crown?

Nay, nay, such fight for a woman's whim would be but the strife of fools.

Each of us knows the other brave; let us wait till our anger cools.

Let us keep our swords for a stronger cause—the cause of the right and good;

Just "whistle our fair one down the wind," and shake hands, as two wise men should.

#### FOREIGN ITEMS.

The *Thunderer* will probably be fully commissioned for sea service in the course of next month.

The *Army and Navy Gazette*, says: There is no denying the fact that the boilers on Admiral Cochrane's plan, as supplied to the *Danae*, are a complete failure.

H. M. S. *Falcon*, a composite gun-vessel of three guns, 774 tons and 750 horse-power, was successfully launched lately from the building-yard of the Messrs. Laird, at Birkenhead.

A VERY noticeable feature, says the *United Service Gazette*, in the march past of the Peshawar garrison before Lord Lytton on the 25th November was a "battery of 40-pounder Armstrongs, irreverently nicknamed the 'ark' or the 'menagerie,' from its guns being drawn by elephants and its caissons by bullocks. The well-drilled pachyderms raised their trunks in concert as a salute as they passed the flag, and the battery was much admired."

THE death is announced of the Russian Rear-Admiral Alexander von Moeller. The deceased officer had taken part in all the principal naval campaigns of Russia since 1823. He fought in the battle of Navarino, and served at the blockade of the Dardanelles. From 1823 to 1826 he accompanied Admiral von Kotzebue in his cruise round the world.

THE Woolwich correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes: "Two thousand newly-invented horse-hammocks are being placed in store in the transport department of the Royal Dockyard at Woolwich. In the shipping and transport of horses in war time a mortality of 17 to 20 per cent. has hitherto occurred by the animals injuring their heads and getting off their feet during the rolling of the ship. When once a horse gets down under the circumstances it often struggles itself to death (if not previously killed) in vainly attempting to get up again. The new hammock is fixed under the body of the horse in such a manner that if in a rough sea the animal is unable to keep on its legs it becomes suspended until it recovers its proper status, the hammock remaining slack when it recovers its feet. It is anticipated that these new hammocks will effect a saving of nearly £1,000 for every 100 war horses sent abroad."

THE *Morning Post* is informed that, Jan. 1, his Imperial Majesty of Germany was presented with a very valuable "sword of honor." The sword was made by Messrs. Sy and Wagner, of Berlin, after a design by Herr A. Wagner. The hilt, the scabbard, and the belt and chain are of massive gold. The ornaments are in the Romanic style of the 13th century, the emblematic figures introduced purely classical. The hilt is of considerable thickness, just capable of being grasped. It has on either side a niche lined with blue enamel, and setting off the figures of "Germania" and "Berussia" placed within them. Nearer the top end are four medallions representing emblematically the four cardinal virtues—Strength, with a club and a bull; Justice, with balance and sword; Perseverance, with a stone wall; and Magnanimity, with a lion. The figures are designed by Calendrilli. The pommel is embellished on either side with the triangle omitting rays of light, symbolical of the eye of God; the rays are represented by strings of brilliants. The scabbard is gold fretwork and crimson velvet; the metal work, which is solid gold, representing garlands of laurel leaves. The blade is of the best Damascus steel, manufactured at Solingen. The names of the twenty-six battles in which the Emperor has taken part are engraved thereon.

IN the Straits of Malacca, the London *Spectator* informs us, the sea-serpent appears to have at last been carefully observed by competent witnesses; the passengers and crew of the ship *Nestor*, en route to Shanghai. At Shanghai, the master, Mr. John Keiller Webster, and the surgeon, Mr. James Anderson, made oath before a magistrate that they had seen a creature resembling a huge salamander, the body being 45 to 50 feet, the head 12 feet, and the tail not less than 150 feet. It was first seen in the Straits of Malacca, Sept. 11, 1876, fifteen miles N. W. of N. Sand Light-house. Weather fine; sea smooth; air perfectly clear. The Chinese on deck were terribly alarmed, and set up a howl. The whole watch and three saloon passengers saw the creature clearly, and observed its movements. By the help of "an undulatory motion of its tail in a vertical plane" it paddled along about as fast as the steamer. The body and tail were marked like a salamander—with alternate bands of black and pale yellow. The head was immediately connected with the body without indication of neck. No eyes or fins were seen, and it did not appear to blow or spout like a whale. The greater part of the head was invisible beneath the surface. There appears to be no reason to doubt the express evidence so succinctly and soberly given of the survival of this prehistoric world of gigantic creatures.

THE *Cologne Gazette* reviews the different stages to which warlike preparations have matured in the countries most directly interested in the present political crisis, and, on comparing them, comes to the conclusion that while Turkey is well prepared as to force a reluctant but unqualified admission of the fact even from the lips of its adverse critics in Russia, the northern empire, whose hostility has called forth those armaments, is most inadequately provided for a serious struggle. The precautionary measures taken by England are, the writer considers, far more to the purpose. From this circumstance he apprehends that, were war really to break out, England would not under all circumstances remain neutral. Turkey is supposed to have 644,512 men ready for war. Russia has three divisions of her Caucasian army mobilised, numbering, probably, 48 battalions—that is, 960 officers and 48,668 men. It is not known what is the strength of the Artillery, the Cavalry, and the Engineer force of this army, nor of the four battalions of Caucasian Rifles.



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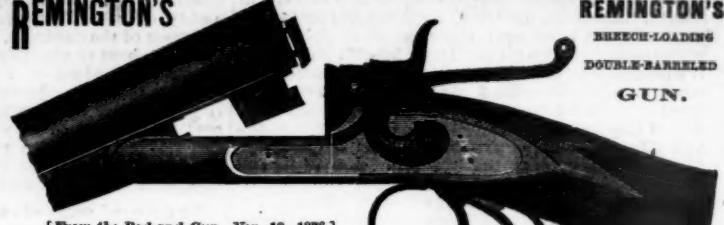
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ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

REMINGTON'S



REMINGTON'S  
BREECH-LOADING  
DOUBLE-BARRELED  
GUN.

[From the Rod and Gun, Nov. 18, 1876.]

THE REMINGTON GUN.—Col. H. A. Gildersleeve, of the American Rifle Teams, 1874, 1875, and 1876, Lt.-Col. 12th Regt., writes under date of Nov. 10:

I have just returned from the Big South Bay, where I have been gunning for ducks. I tried for the first time the Remington 10 gauge gun I purchased from you last Summer. My success with it was excellent. In my judgment its shooting capacity cannot be surpassed. I want no better gun, and if I did I don't believe I could find it, even among the expensive grades of English guns.

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